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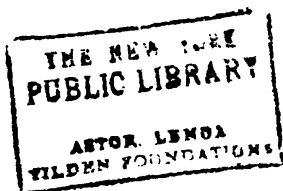
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Time's





Drawn by R. Wood, R.A.

Engraved by T. Halls.

Autumn !

HARVEST SCENE.

Year's Almanac.

FOR

1831;

OR, A

COMPLETE GUIDE TO THE ALMANACK.

CONTAINING AN EXPLANATION OF

the Days and Months

WITH

RAISING AND OBSOLETE RITES AND CUSTOMS

AND THE HISTORY OF CONTEMPORARY BIOGRAPHY

AND

ASTRONOMICAL OCCURRENCES

IN EVERY MONTH;

COMPRISING REMARKS ON THE PHENOMENA OF THE HEAVENLY
BODIES; AND

THE NATURALIST'S CALENDAR

EXPLAINING VARIOUS

CHANGES IN THE ANIMAL AND VEGETABLE KINGDOMS

The whole interspersed with numerous Poems by the most
Living Writers.

LONDON:

SHERWOOD, GILBERT AND PIERCE,
PATERNOSTER ROW.

MDCCCXXI.



Time's Telescope,

FOR

1831;

OR, A

COMPLETE GUIDE TO THE ALMANACK:

CONTAINING AN EXPLANATION OF

Saints' Days and Holidays;

WITH

EXISTING AND OBSOLETE RITES AND CUSTOMS,

SKETCHES OF CONTEMPORARY BIOGRAPHY,

AND

ASTRONOMICAL OCCURRENCES

IN EVERY MONTH;

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MDCCCXXXI.



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УВАЖАЮ

PREFACE.

IN presenting the Eighteenth Volume of Time's Telescope to our friends, we flatter ourselves that it will be found to have increased in attractions as it has increased in years, and to be deserving a continuance of those favours which it has enjoyed through so long a period.

As the "Parent of Annuals" it has been thought advisable to assume a somewhat gayer appearance than heretofore, in accordance with the prevailing *modes* of the younger branches of the family, and though certainly far from rivalling in splendour the *Messrs. Keepsake, Souvenir, Forget-me-not, and Co.*, yet, like many other elderly persons, adhering sufficiently to the fashion of the day, to render ourselves agreeable; and whatever we may be deficient in the splendour of art, we hope

will be found fully compensated in utility and amusement.

We have endeavoured to render our volume acceptable to all classes, by combining much of the agreeable with the useful; and, in the richness of the poetical department, we need only refer to the names of those whose gems grace our pages.

In the *Astronomical Occurrences* of the present volume, some alterations and additions will be observed: the particulars of the *Sun's rising and setting*, and *Equation of Time*, are combined with a Table of the *Transits and Meridional Altitudes of the Planets*; by this arrangement, additional space has been afforded, for observations on the current phenomena, and other miscellaneous information, at once both amusing and instructive. This Table will be found particularly useful to the young astronomer.

The *Conjunctions of the Moon with the Planets*, have been extended to all, excepting the Asteroids and Uranus; the conjunctions with the *Fixed Stars* are selected from those which are

likely to prove occultations,—a species of phenomena at all times interesting, and at present occupying a considerable share of the attention of astronomers. The most remarkable *Lunar Occultations* during the year, will be those, of Aldebaran in January, April, August, October, and December; of Jupiter in June; of Saturn in November; and of Regulus in December. Particular reference has been made to the occultations of Jupiter and Saturn, illustrative of which are diagrams, shewing the points of immersion and emersion, also drawings of some singular appearances observed in former occultations of these planets. The conjunctions are, in general, in *right ascension*, and the times specified, sufficiently near to apprise the observer of the phenomenon.

The Asteroids are traced throughout the year; the more remarkable *Configurations of the Satellites of Jupiter* are pointed out; and some of the most recent discoveries in the *Sphere of the Fixed Stars* recorded.

It is scarcely necessary to observe, that this department of Time's Telescope is not intended

to supersede other works, which are exclusively of the nature of an Ephemeris, but to supply a useful and amusing guide to the young astronomer, calculated to introduce him to a wider field of observation, and a more elaborate investigation of the wonders of the heavens. It is with peculiar gratification, the writer of the Astronomical Occurrences of this and the preceding year, (also of the Essays on Comets, Nebulæ, Double Stars, &c. in T. T. for 1829, copied from the Literary Gazette) acknowledges, that, *his first astronomical guide was an early volume of Time's Telescope.*

To those correspondents who have assisted us with their communications in this volume, we return our thanks, and solicit a renewal of their favours for the ensuing year.

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PART I.

REMARKABLE DAYS.



Come lads and lasses with merry faces
To the May-bowers ;
Behold the grass is pranckt with daisies,
The bank with flowers.
The sun is flinging on waters glancing
His early light ;
The birds are singing, and branches dancing
At the glad sight.
Come, let us rush in the maze of boughs,
And meet at the May-pole to dance and carouse ;
He that is first shall be Jack in the green,
And the forwardest lass shall be crown'd our Queen.
HORACE SMITH.—*See May Day.*



JANUARY.

Then came old January, wrapped well
In many weeds to keep the cold away.

Spenser.

THIS month received its name from the Roman emperor, Numa Pompilius, in honor of the god Janus, the door-keeper of heaven, and presider over peace; to whom they gave two faces, so that he could look on the old and the new years at the same time. Prior to the reign of Pompilius the year had but ten months, and began with March. The principal feasts of this month were on the 1st, a festival in honor of Jupiter, Juno, and Janus; on the 24th, the feast of corn sowing; on the 27th, the grand festival in honor of Castor and Pollux.

The Anglo Saxons called this day *Giuli aftera*, signifying the second Christmas. According to Verstegan, the Saxons named January "*wolf-monat*, to wit, *wolf moneth*, because people are wont alwaies in that moneth to be more in danger to be devoured of wolves, than in any season else of the yere; for that through the extremity of cold, and snow, these ravenous creatures could not find of other beasts sufficient to feed upon."*

The sign of this month is *Aquarius*, supposed to denote that snows and rains are now more frequent than in any other season of the year. Peacham thus describes

* Restitution of Decayed Intelligence, 1634.

the month, "January should be clad all in white, like the colour of the earth at this time, blowing his nailes; in his left arm a billet; the sign Aquarius by his side."*

1. CIRCUMCISION.—NEW YEAR'S DAY.

This day is a festival in commemoration of the circumcision of our Saviour on the eighth day after his nativity. It is a rite of the Jewish law, annexed by God as a seal to the covenant which he made to Abraham and his posterity, in the year of the world 2107. This day was first observed in the year 487; but it was not included in our liturgy until 1550. It would have been instituted a festival of the church at a much earlier period than the fifth century, but the Christians were prevented from any other observance of it than merely keeping a strict fast, by the gross and licentious manner in which the *Calends* of January, or the beginning of the New Year, was celebrated by the heathens. The writings of the early fathers† are full of strong invectives against the idolatrous profanation of this day, which concluded the riotous feasts in honor of the god Saturn, and was dedicated to Janus, and Strena or Strenua, a goddess supposed to preside over those presents which they sent to and received one from another on the first day of the year, which were from her called *Strenæ*. These abuses were partially brought amongst the Christians by some converts from paganism; which St. Augustin thus alludes to:—"Will you celebrate the *Strenæ*, as the

* Gentleman's Exercise, 1661.

† Particularly St. Peter Chrysologus, in his 155th Sermon, and St. Maximus, Bishop of Turin, in his homily for this day. Both flourished in the middle of the fifth century.

Pagans do, and spend that day, in gaming and drunkenness? What a contradiction is here between your profession and practice. While they send their presents, do you give alms; while they attend to lascivious songs, let your application be to the sacred oracles. While they run to the theatre, hasten to church. While they get drunk, do you fast: or if you cannot fast, at least eat with temperance and sobriety.”* When these abuses had in some measure abated, the church established a general festival under the double title of the *Circumcision* and the *Octave* of Christmas.

New Year’s Day has always been considered a period of rejoicings, presents, and good wishes; and one on which many benevolent and singular customs have been at various periods established. It is indeed a

happy holiday,

When gifts and gratulations go about
So closely heart-linked, that we well may deem,
Of those so happy triumphs ere guilt was,
The time is come again.

Our English nobility, from the earliest times, seems to have been accustomed, every New Year’s tide, to make presents to the monarch; and Matthew Paris tells us that King Henry the Third extorted such gifts from his subjects. Even so late as the beginning of the last century, the courtiers commonly accompanied their congratulations on these occasions with a purse containing gold in it. “Reason may be joined to custom,” says Paris, “to justify this practice.” For as presages are drawn from the first things which are met on the begin-

* The Works of St. Augustin, by Father Sirmond. Sermon vii.

ning of a day, week, or year, none can be more pleasing than those things which are given us. We rejoice that our friends, after having escaped the dangers that attend every year, and congratulate each other for the future, by presents and wishes for the happy continuance of that course, which the ancients called *Strenarum Comerarum*. And as formerly men used to renew their hospitalities by presents called *Xenia*—a name proper enough for our New Year's Gifts; they may be said to serve to renew friendship, which is one of the greatest gifts imparted by Heaven to men; and they who have always assigned some day to those things which they thought good, have also judged it proper to solemnize the Festival of Gifts; and to shew how much they esteemed it, in token of happiness, made it begin the year. "The value of the thing given," he adds, "or the excellency of the work, and the place where it is given, makes it the more acceptable; but above all, the time of giving it, which makes some presents pass for a mark of civility on the beginning of the year, that would appear unsuitable at any other season."

To end the old year merrily, and begin the new one well, and in friendship with their neighbours, were the objects which formerly the common people had in view in the celebration of this festival. New Year's Eve was therefore spent in festivity and frolic by the men; and the young women in the country carried about, from door to door, the *wassail*, a bowl of spiced ale, which they offered to the inhabitants of every house where they stopped, singing at the same time some rude congratulatory verses, and expecting some small present in return. The *wassail* was composed of ale, nutmeg, sugar,

toast, and roasted apples. This practice, however, which originated in pure kindness and benevolence, soon degenerated into little better than a mere pecuniary traffic. In Selden's time it appears to have lost much of its original character from the following comparison which he drew. "The Pope, in sending relics to Princes, does as *wenches* do by their *wassells* at New Year's tide; they present you with a cup, and you must drink of a flabby stuff; but the meaning is, you must give them money ten times more than it is worth."*

The custom of interchanging gifts on this day, though now nearly obsolete, was in old times observed most rigidly, and not merely in the country, but in the palace of the monarch. The wardrobe and jewellery of Queen Elizabeth appear to have been supported principally by these annual contributions. Nichols in his "Progresses" of this queen, furnishes a curious enumeration of these gifts, the original rolls of account of which are still remaining, and on which he observes, "from all these rolls (and more of them are perhaps still existing), it appears that the greatest part, if not all the peers and peeresses of the realm, all the bishops, the chief officers of state, and several of the queen's household servants, even down to her apothecaries, master cook, serjeant of the pastry, and even the *dustman*, gave New Year's Gifts to her majesty, consisting, in general, either of a sum of money, or jewels, trinkets, wearing apparel, &c. The largest sum given by any of the temporal lords was £20; but the Archbishop of Canterbury gave £40; the Archbishop of York £30, and the other spiritual lords £20 and £10;

* Selden's Table Talk.

many of the temporal lords and great officers, and most of the peeresses, gave rich gowns, petticoats, smocks, kirtles, silk stockings, Cyprus garters, sweet bags, doublets, mantles, some embroidered with pearls, garnets, &c. looking-glasses, fans, bracelets, caskets studded with precious stones, jewels ornamented with sparks of gold in various devices, and other costly trinkets. Sir Gilbert Dethick, Garter King at Arms, gave a book of the States in William the Conqueror's time; Absalom, the Master of the Savoy, a bible covered with cloth of gold, garnished with silver and gilt, and two plates with the royal arms; *Petruchio Ubaldino*, a book covered with vellum, of Italian; Lambarde, the antiquary, his *Pandecta* of all the Rolls, &c. in the Tower of London. The queen's physician presented her with a box of foreign sweetmeats; another physician with two pots, one of green ginger, the other of orange flowers; two other physicians gave each a pot of green ginger, and a pot of rinds of lemons; her apothecaries, a box of lozenges, a box of ginger candy, a box of green ginger, a box of orange candit, a pot of preserves, a pot of Warden's candit, a box of wood with prunelyn, and two boxes of *manus Christi*; Mrs. Blanch, a parry, a little box of gold to put in comfits, and a little spoon of gold; Mrs. Morgan, a box of cherries, and one of aberycocks; her master cook, a faire march payne; her serjeant of the pastry, a faire pie of quinces oranged, a box of peaches of Janneway (Genoa), a great pie of quinces and Warden's guilte; *Putrino*, an Italian, presented her with two pictures; *Innocent Corry*, with a box of lute strings; *Ambrose Lupo*, *Joseph Lupo*, and *Cæsar Caliaro*, each with a pair of sweet gloves; a cutler, with a meat

knife with a fan-haft of bone, *a conceit in it*; *Jaromy*, with twenty-four drinking glasses; Smyth, *dustman*, two boltes of cambrick. To all which articles, the queen, though she made return in plate, &c. always took care the balance should be in her own favour.

The rewards given by King Edward VI. in the fifth year of his reign, on New Year's Day, to his officers and servants in ordinary, amounted to £155 5s. The only remains however of giving presents on this day at Court is to the two chaplains in waiting, who still have each a crown piece laid under their plates at dinner.

In a MS. book of accounts of the household expenses of Sir John Franklyn, 1624, printed in the *Archæologia*, under the date of January 1, occur the following items, illustrative of New Year's Day customs at that period :

	s.	d.
Item to the musitioners uppon New Year's Day in the morning	1	6
Item to the woman which brought the apple stuck with nuts	1	0
Item to the boy who brought two capons	1	0
Item paid for the cup (supposed to have been the wassailing cup)	1	6

The "apple stuck with nuts" seems to have been presented as an humble substitute for an orange stuck with cloves, which was, at this time, a common New Year's Gift. Ben Jonson in his *Christmas Masque*, says:—"He has an orange and rosemary, but not a clove to stick in it."

The presenting of *capons* on this day, as a usual gift, is thus alluded to by Cowley:—

Ye used in the former days to fall
Prostrate unto your landlord in his hall;

When with low legs, and in an humble guise,
Ye offered up a capon sacrifice
Unto his worship, at a New Year's tide.

For the close of our first day we shall avail ourselves
of the following

NEW YEAR'S OFFERING.

"A happy new year," thou lovely one,
As bright as roses bath'd in sun!
Around thy path may the dancing hours
Scatter wreaths of radiant flowers!

On thy smooth cheek health's mantling glow
Flits like a sun-blush o'er the snow;
And the soft shade of thy raven hair
Rest on a brow so passing fair,
I dare not think, majestic maid,
Thy soul-lit beauty e'er can fade—
And may it not! I would that thou,
With gentle lip, and lofty brow,
And the changing light of thy lucid eye,
Should live on earth immortally!
Sure lip and love must stay with thee,
Chained by thy potent witchery!
Yet would I not the flatt'ring throng
Should lure thee with a syren song—
'Twere better far, for one pure heart
To love thee for what thou really art,
Not a painted toy to please awhile,
To feign a blush, and act a smile,
But one whose noble generous soul
Spurns affectation's mean controul;
Who life's most sparkling cup has quaff'd,
Uninjured by the dangerous draught—
'Tis this that binds me with a spell,
Whose power I find no words to tell!

"A happy new year," thou lovely one,
As bright as roses bathed in sun!
Around thy path may the dancing hours
Scatter wreaths of radiant flowers!

L. M. Francis.

6. EPIPHANY; OR, TWELFTH DAY.

Now Twelf Day is coming goode housewife I trowe,
Get ready your churne and your milk from the cowe,
And fire your oven all ready to bake,
For Emma come hither a bonnie Twelfth cake.
The lads and the lasses at night will be seen
Round the wassaile bowle drawing for king and for queene.
But could I possess their three kingdomes by lotte,
I would rather have Emma and dwell in a cotte.

Anthologia.

The feast of the Epiphany, which means appearance or manifestation, is a festival established from the earliest period of Christianity, in commemoration of the day when Christ manifested himself to the Jews, by a star which conducted the wise men to Bethlehem. It is usually called Twelfth Day, from its being twelve days after Christmas or the Nativity. In the time of Alfred the whole twelve days were ordered to be kept as festivals by a law made respecting holydays*.

Brand observes that the customs of this day, though various in different countries, agree in doing honour to the Eastern Magi, or Wise Men, who are supposed to have been of royal dignity; and in this opinion Selden appears to agree when he says in his Table Talk—"Our choosing kings and queens on Twelfth Night has reference to the three kings." These eastern magi, or kings, are still held in much veneration by Catholics;

* See Collier's Ecclesiastical History.

and even in the palace of St. James's the king on this day still makes an offering at the altar, by proxy, of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Twelfth Day is considered as the winding up of the Christmas Holidays, and many still conclude the day with merriment by eating cake and drawing for king and queen: the manner in which they are now chosen is by drawing lots, or characters, and each assumes for the evening the character they draw: the royal dignity is preserved by apportioning a larger division of the cake to the sovereigns, to whom the other characters are held subordinate.

Formerly a bean and a pea used to be put into the cake, and the possessor of those became monarchs for the evening.

Now, now the mirth comes
With the cake full of plums,
Where *Bean's* the King of the sport here;
Beside ye must know,
The *Pea* also
Must revell, as Queene, in the Court here.

Herrick.

The remoteness of the era at which the bean was used, can be traced to the thirteenth century, in a poem by Guillaume de Villeneuve.

The character of Baby-cake, in Ben Jonson's *Masque of Christmas*, enters "attended by an usher, bearing a great Cake with a Bean and a Pease."

The following particulars of Twelfth Cake and its ceremonies is from a book printed in 1620, called "*Mores, Leges, et Ritus omnium Gentium.*" The materials of the cake are honey, flour, ginger, and pepper. One is made for every family by the mistress, who

thrusts in, at random, as she is kneading it. a small coin. When the cake is baked, it is divided into as many parts as there are persons in the family, and each have their share. Portions of it, also, are assigned to Christ, to the Virgin, and to the three Magi, which are given away in alms. Whoever finds the piece of coin in his share is saluted by all as king, and being placed on a seat or throne, is thrice lifted aloft with joyful acclamations. He holds a piece of chalk in his right hand, and each time that he is lifted up, makes a cross on the ceiling. These crosses are thought to prevent many evils, and are much revered."

The foregoing accords very nearly with the following, from the "Popish Kingdom" of Naorgeorgus, as translated by Barnaby Googe, and printed in the year 1570:

The wise Men's Day here followeth, who out from Persia farre,
Brought gifts and presents unto Christ, conducted by a starre.
The Papists do beleewe that these were Kings, and so them call,
And do affirme that of the same there were but three in all.
Hence sundry friends together come, and meete in companie,
And make a King among themselves by voice or destinie;
Who after princely guise appointes his officers alway,
Then unto feasting do they go, and long time after play:—

Then also every Householder, to his abillitie,
Doth make a mightie Cake, that may suffice his companie:
Herein a penny he doth put, before it come to fire,
This he divides according as his householde doth require;
And every peece distributeth, as round about they stand,
Which in their names unto the poor is given out of hand:
But whoso chaunceth on the peece wherein the money lies,
Is counted King amongst them all (and is with showtes and cries
Exalted to the Heavens up), who taking chalke in hande,
Doth make a crosse on every beame and rafters as they stande;
Great force and powre have these against all injuries and harms
Of cursed Devils, Sprites, and Bugges, of conjuring and charmes.

So much the King can do ; so much the crosses bring to passe
Made by servant, maide, or childe, or by some foolish asse.

Twice sixe nights then from Christmasse, — and at the
present time,
The youth in every place doe flooke, and all apparel'd fine,
With pypars through the streetes they runne, and sing at every
dore,

In commendation of the man—rewarded well therefore,
The money on themselves they spend, or on the church, as though
The people were not plagude with rogues and begging friarsenow.
There Cities are, where boyes and gyrls together still do runne,
About the street with like, as soon as night beginnes to come,
And bring abrode their Wassail Bowles, who well rewarded bee
With cakes and cheese, and great good cheare, and money
plenteouslec.

In France the Twelfth Cake is made quite plain,
something like a large bun, with a *bean* in it ; when the
cake is cut each person draws a slice, and the one to
whose lot the bean falls becomes king or queen. To his
or her majesty, the homage of the rest of the company
is paid during the evening. In the *Anthologie Francaise*
for 1817, this subject has been very prettily moralized
upon in some stanzas called *Les Rois de la Fève*, and
which have been no less happily rendered into English
by one of our talented correspondents.

THE KINGS OF THE BEAN.

This day, propitious is my fate,
For on a throne it places me ;
Friends,—who are met to celebrate
With joyousness, my royalty,
My reign's a vision's brilliant scene,
Prolong my happy slumber then :
You'll tell me when I wake again
“ Thou wert but Monarch of the Bean ! ”

Caesar upon the stage we see
 Augustus, Agamemnon, there;
 But children of Melpomene
 Alone these glorious titles bear;
 The Drama o'er, (as all have seen)
 How quickly the illusion's fled:
 Lo! both the living and the dead,
 "Were Monarchs only of the Bean!"

If happiness attends the throne,
 I for a season shall enjoy it:
 If glory,—that will smile alone
 No pangs of conscience can destroy it.
 When mine eyes meet the heavens serene,
 Of Princes, great and proud, I say,
 What to the world's high King are they!
 "Weak Monarchs only of the Bean!"

M. L. B.

7. ST. DISTAFF'S DAY.

The day following Twelfth day was formerly so called;
 and the Christmas holidays were then said to be ended.
 Herrick says:—

Give St. Distaff all the right;
 Then bid Christmas sport good night:
 And next morrow, every one
 To his own vocation.

7. 1830. QUEEN OF PORTUGAL DIED, ÆTAT 54.

Carlotta-Joachima, Queen Dowager of Portugal, eldest daughter of Charles IV. of Spain, was born April 25th, 1775. In 1790 she married King John VI. of Portugal, who died March 10th, 1826.

Her activity in the administration of the government of Portugal, during many years, created much unpopularity. On her death her character was thus severely pictured in the *Times* newspaper:—"The only fact of importance which the Lisbon papers record—and it is enough for one arrival—is the death of

the Queen Dowager of Portugal, the mother and adviser of Don Miguel—the fanatic plotter against the peace and freedom of Portugal, and the unrelenting instigator of general persecution and violence. Few persons in modern times have enjoyed such extensive means of mischief on so limited a stage of action, and none have ever exercised them with a more eager instinct of cruelty and vengeance. Reflecting in her last moments on the distracted condition of the Portuguese monarchy, groaning under usurpation and oppression, with its trade destroyed, its industry paralysed, and its best subjects in dungeons or in exile, she could leave the world with the proud satisfaction that its delivery into the hands of despotism and anarchy was mainly her own work. Though for a long time called ‘the old Queen,’ she was not far advanced in life when she became the victim of her dissolute habits and ravenous passions. Some curious stories are told of the means employed by the doctors and divines who surrounded her death-bed, to prolong the life of this worthless princess. Medical skill confessing defeat, they sent from Quelez to Lisbon for a little miraculous image, called our Lady of ‘the Rabbit-hole,’ to the fame and wealth of which she had so largely contributed on its first discovery in 1823. But this image, which mainly contributed in that year to overthrow the constitution, and which has since nearly filled the Cathedral of Lisbon with votive offerings, was found to have no efficacy against the Queen’s malady.”

8. ST. LUCIAN.

This is the first saint in the British Calendar, and much doubt exists which St. Lucian is entitled to the honor; there being two of that name, to whom various authorities give the palm. Alban Butler believed it to be the one who came from Rome to preach in Gaul, where he suffered martyrdom about the year 290. Other authorities, however, dispute this, and affirm him to be the one who stands in the Romish Calendar on the day preceding this. He was born at Samosata in Syria,

and after the death of his parents gave all his property to the poor, devoting himself to the study of the Scriptures, in the language of which he was a proficient. For the profession of his faith he suffered various tortures, and afterwards martyrdom, by order of Maximinus II. in the year 312.

9. FIRST SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY.

A SONNET TO THE SABBATH.

Ah! quiet day, I oft recall the time,
 When I did chase my childish sluggishness
 (The rear of darkness lingering still) to dress
 In due sort for thy coming: the first chime
 Of blithesome bells, that ushered in the morn,
 Caroll'd to me of rest and simplest mirth:
 'Twas then all happiness to me on the wide earth
 To gaze! I little dream'd, that man was born
 For aught but wholesome toil and holiest praise,
 Thanking that God who made him, to rejoice!
 But I am changed now! nor could I raise
 My sunken spirit, at thy well known voice;
 But that thou seemest soothingly to say,
 "Look up, poor mourner, to a better day!"

C. Lloyd.

10. PLOUGH MONDAY.

Plough Munday, next after that Twelfth-tide is past,
 Bids out with the Plough; the worst husband is last:
 If Ploughman get hatchet, or whip to the screene,
 Maids loseth their Cocke if no water be seene.

Tusser's 500 Points of Good Husbandry.

These lines are thus explained in "*Tusser Redivus*," printed in 1744:—"After Christmas, (which formerly, during the twelve days, was a time of very little work) every gentleman feasted the farmers, and every farmer their servants and task men. Plough Monday puts them

in mind of their business. In the morning the men and maid servants strive who shall show their diligence in rising earliest: if the ploughman can get his whip, his plough-staff, hatchet, or any thing that he wants in the field, by the fire side, before the maid hath got her kettle on, then the maid loseth her *shrove-tide* cock, and it wholly belongs to the men. Thus did our forefathers strive to allure youth to their duty, and provided them innocent mirth as well as labour. On this Plough Monday they have a good supper and some strong drink."

Brand says: "about Christmas in the north of England, there is a custom used, which was anciently observed, also, at the beginning of Lent. The Fool Plough goes about, a pageant that consists of a number of *sword-dancers dragging a plough*, with music, and one, sometimes two, in very strange attire; the Bessy, in the grotesque habit of an old woman, and the Fool, almost covered with skins, a hairy cap on, and the tail of some animal hanging from his back. The office of one of these characters, in which he is very assiduous, is to go about rattling a box amongst the spectators of the dance, in which he receives their little donations. This pageant, or dance, as used at present, seems a composition made up of the gleaning of several obsolete customs, followed anciently here and elsewhere on this and the like festive occasions."*

13. ST. HILARY,

One of the most eminent fathers of the Christian church, born at Poitiers in France, and educated in pagan

* Observations on Popular Antiquities.

idolatry. At an early age he became a convert to Christianity, and in the year 355 was chosen bishop of his native place, from whence he was afterwards banished by order of the emperor Constantius for his opposition to the Arians. After travelling through various countries, and undergoing many sufferings, he returned to Poitiers, where he ended his days in the year 368. He was an excellent orator and poet, and is supposed to have been the first composer of hymns to be sung in churches.

14. 1830. SIR T. LAWRENCE, P.R.A. ÆTAT. 61.

This distinguished artist was born at the White Hart Inn, Bristol, on the 13th of April, 1769. His father, failing at the White Hart, afterwards established himself in Alfred Street, Bath. When only seven or eight years old, young Lawrence attracted notice by his imitations of the human face, and his predilection for this pursuit led to his being placed under the care of Mr. Hoare, a crayon painter of much celebrity. At first he executed crayon likenesses in the manner of his instructor, for which he received half a guinea each. His earliest patron was the Hon. John Hamilton, a member of the Abercorn family, who resided on Lansdown Hill, and contributed greatly to the young artist's talents, as well by pecuniary encouragement as by affording him access to some fine scriptural pieces, the production of the old masters, in his possession. Another of his early patrons was Sir Henry Harpur, a Derbyshire baronet of fortune and liberality; who even went so far as to offer to send the lad to Italy at his own expense, and to give a thousand pounds for that purpose, but the proposal was rejected by his father, on the alleged ground that "Thomas's genius stood in no need of such aid." But the most remarkable incident in the life of young Lawrence, during his residence at Bath, was his receiving the great silver palette from the Society of Arts—an event of which he spoke at a recent anniversary of that Society in terms of the warmest gratitude, ascribing to this encouragement and honor much of

that enthusiastic feeling and love of his art which had raised him to his eminent station. With the palette he received a grant of five guineas from the Society, which shows how highly his performance—the Transfiguration of Raphael, in crayons—was appreciated by his judges, although done at the age of only thirteen.

Before Lawrence had attained his seventeenth year, his father and family settled in London, where for some time the young artist fell into obscurity and want of employment. In 1787, however, we find him exhibiting for the first time at Somerset House, where every following year he evinced his sure and rapid professional advancement. In the years 1789 and 1790 he painted several of the Royal family. His late majesty became his firm patron, and on the opening of the continent in 1814, gave him the splendid commission to paint the allied Sovereigns, their ministers, and the most exalted personages of Europe; for which purpose he visited Paris, Vienna, Rome, and the principal cities of the continent. On the 20th of April, 1815, he received the honor of knighthood.

On the death of Mr. West, in 1820, Sir Thomas Lawrence was elected to the President's chair, in the Royal Academy: in which high and honorable office he acquitted himself with great credit, and became eminently popular. In 1826 he paid another visit to Paris to paint Charles X. when he received the cross of the Legion of Honour.

His death was unexpected, occurring after an illness of only five days. The immediate cause of his decease, as ascertained by Dr. Holland and Mr. Green, on a *post mortem* examination, was an extensive disease of the heart. The body was removed to Somerset House, where it lay in state in the medal-room on the 21st of January, until twelve o'clock, when it was taken to St. Paul's Cathedral for interment. The highest honours were paid to the remains, the pall bearers being the Earl of Aberdeen, Earl Gower, Mr. Peel, Hon. Agar Ellis, Sir G. Murray, Mr. Croker, Mr. Hart Davis, and the Earl of Clanwilliam; followed by the Royal Academicians; the officers, students, &c. of the Royal Academy; the Society of Painters in Water Colours, of the British Artists, &c.; together with a number of

the nobility and gentry, whose carriages amounted to seventy-five.

Thus died the most distinguished painter of the age in one branch of the art,—that of portrait painting. In this he was certainly without a rival; and his reputation and success were not incommensurate with his merit. He was called on to paint all the eminent characters of his day, whether distinguished by personal attractions as beauties, by rank or station, or by talents which were likely to render their living lineaments objects of curiosity with posterity. The characteristics of his style were brilliancy of colour, and a delicate mode of conveying a faithful resemblance, with an exquisitely beautiful sense of grace and effect. This perception of beauty and grace was combined with a strong sense of individuality of character—and rarely, indeed, did he fail, whilst conveying the most accurate resemblance, to impart also some of those graces, united with those improvements which spring from a mind having the perfection of art always present to his recollection. No painter who ever lived seemed to dive deeper into individual character, as conveyed by the conformation of visage, and the expression of the features by the motion of the lips and eyes; and none knew more skilfully how to avail himself of the changeful appearances which they betrayed in those conversations which were dexterously introduced during the sitting, and which destroyed or relaxed a rigidity of muscle assumed on such occasions, and which frequently baffles the utmost ingenuity of the artist.

16. 1830. LORD REDESDALE DIED, ÆTAT. 81.

The Rt. Hon. John Mitford, Baron Redesdale, of Redesdale, in Northumberland, a Privy Councillor of Great Britain and Ireland, a Lord of Trade and Plantations, F.R.S. and F.S.A., was born in Northumberland, August 18th, 1748.

Early in life Mr. Mitford entered as a member of Lincoln's-Inn. In due time he was called to the Bar; and in 1788 was returned to Parliament for the borough of Beeralston, through the interest of his cousin, the Duke of Northumberland. In 1789 he was appointed a Welsh Judge, and in 1793 Solicitor-

general to his Majesty, receiving at the same time the honor of knighthood. In 1799 he became Attorney-General, and in 1801 Speaker of the House of Commons. The next year he was appointed Lord High Chancellor of Ireland, and was created Baron Redesdale. His lordship was always considered a very high authority in appeals and committees of the House of Lords. The measure of affording relief to men in a state of insolvency originated entirely with his lordship; and, however much the privilege may have been abused by fraudulent individuals, the Insolvent Debtors' Laws will remain a monument to the philanthropy of Lord Redesdale.

18. ST. PRISCA,

A Roman Virgin, who was tortured and beheaded in the year 275, by order of the Emperor Claudius, for refusing to abjure Christianity and offer sacrifice when commanded.

18. ST. PETER'S CHAIR AT ROME.

The Catholic Church celebrates to-day the establishment of the Episcopal Chair at Rome by St. Peter, the Prince of the Apostles. This fact is asserted and described by Caius, a priest of Rome, in the time of Zephyrinus. St. Peter and St. Paul were the two Apostles who planted the Catholic faith at Rome, and were there martyred at the same time, as is asserted by St. Dionysius, of Corinth, who lived in the second age. The Apostolicity of the Church, and the descent of all the popes, bishops, and prelates, from St. Peter, their first bishop, is curiously exemplified by the late Dr. Milner, in his "End of Religious Controversy," by a figure of the Apostolical tree. The festival is recorded in the Martyrology ascribed to Bede, and was therefore kept prior to the year 720. St. Peter is said, metaphorically, to keep the key of heaven. Hence many churches, dedi-

cated to this Saint, have the vane on their steeples surmounted with a key, as St. Peter's in Cornhill, London, and others. In common, a cock is the figure used for a windvane, and this, according to Du Cange, was originally devised as an emblem of clerical vigilance, the clergy being styled the Cock of the Almighty, whose office it was to call us to early prayer.—*Forster*.

20. ST. FABIAN.

Nothing certain of this Saint is known beyond what is recorded of him by Eusebius*, from whom it appears, that on the death of St. Anteros, in the year 236, Fabian, a native of Italy, was chosen to the see of Rome in his stead : when he sent St. Dionysius and other preachers into Gaul, and was instrumental in making many converts. He filled the papal chair fourteen years, and suffered martyrdom in 250, under the persecution of Decius, the successor of the Emperor Philip.

21. ST. AGNES.

According to St. Ambrose and St. Augustine, Agnes suffered martyrdom when only thirteen years of age. Her beauty attracted many of the nobility of Rome, to whom, however, she always replied that she had promised herself to her Lord Jesus Christ. Their love turning to rage they accused her of being a Christian, and delivered her up to the magistrates, who, finding persuasions could not induce her to worship the altar of the Pagan deities, ordered every species of torture to be displayed before her, but these she looked upon with indifference. When before the idols she only made the sign of the cross, which so exasperated her judges that

* See Eusebius's Ecclesiastical History, Book v. chap. 29.

she was condemned to be beheaded ; which sentence she underwent with cheerfulness and even a transport of delight.

The eve before St. Agnes was one formerly of much superstition. Aubrey says—"upon St. Agnes' night, you take a row of pins, and pull out every one, one after another, saying a Paternoster, sticking a pin in your sleeve, and you will dream of him or her you shall marry."

Ben Jonson also says :—

And on sweet St. Agnes' night
Please you with the promis'd sight,
Some of husbands, some of lovers,
Which an empty dream discovers.

22. ST. VINCENT.

This most glorious martyr, as Butler calls him, was born at Saragossa in Spain. In 303, when Dioclesian's persecution reached the church of Spain, Bishop Valerius and Vincent were seized and ordered to pay obedience to the Gods of the Empire, which refusing to do, the bishop was banished and Vincent condemned to the most unheard-of tortures, and finally was ordered to be broiled alive over a slow fire on a gridiron full of sharp spikes. He died full of cheerfulness and composure, and his body was afterwards thrown into the fields as a prey to birds and beasts.

25. CONVERSION OF ST. PAUL.

The sudden conversion of St. Paul is well known. He was on his way to Damascus when a voice, issuing from a great light, said "Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?" He proceeded on his journey, but changed his purpose with his name, and instead of persecuting the Christians, converted many pagans to Christianity.

This festival was instituted very early. Being the first of an apostle in the year, a curious custom was observed in olden time, by sponsors or visitors at christenings, of presenting spoons, from their having representations of the apostles carved on the top of them. Those who were opulent, presented to their god-children a set of these articles, amounting to twelve, others a smaller number, and poor persons offered the gift of one, with the figure of the Saint upon the top of the handle, after whom the child was named.

**25. 1830. RT. HON. GEORGE TIERNEY DIED,
ÆTAT. 68.**

He was born at Gibraltar, March 20th, 1761, and was the son of a Spanish merchant, trading under the firm of Tierney, Lilly and Robarts, of Lawrence Pounteney Lane, London. He was educated at Eton, and afterwards at Cambridge, where he took up his degree of LL.B. in 1784. He was brought up to the bar, to which he was called, but relinquished it on the acquisition of an immense fortune, through the death of three brothers. In 1789 he became member for Colchester, which however he lost at the general election in 1791. Being out of Parliament, he now turned his attention to East India affairs, and published several pamphlets which created some sensation in the Company. In 1796 he was returned to Parliament for the borough of Southwark: and soon rose into fame by the brilliancy of his oratory. In 1803 he became Treasurer of the Navy, and in 1806 President of the Board of Controul for the affairs of India. In 1817, however, he joined the opposition and retired from office. In 1827 Mr. Canning invited him to the Mastership of the Mint, from which he retired the next year with Lord Goderich.

His death was very sudden. He had transacted business very cheerfully during the morning, and about two o'clock, when the servant entered his library, he was found dead in his chair; he had died evidently without the least pain or knowledge of the event.

The *Times* newspaper, the day after his death, describes him as having, at the close of the American war, and during the tempestuous season of the French Revolution, illuminated the House of Commons by his talent, in conjunction with those departed statesmen, Fox, Burke, Sheridan, Windham, and Pitt—all gone before him. He was inferior in brilliance, but almost equal in argument, to Fox; less burdened with the trappings of learning, and less perplexed with the refinements of metaphysics, than Burke or Windham; second in wit, but more abounding in wisdom, than Sheridan; less sonorous and imposing than Pitt; he was always heard with equal attention to any of these illustrious persons in the debate; and, if he could not succeed in carrying the opinions he espoused, he seldom or ever allowed his adversaries to boast of a personal triumph over him as their advocate.

27. 1773. DUKE OF SUSSEX BORN.

27. 1830. WILLIAM EYTON TOOKE, B.A. DIED,
ÆTAT. 24.

The eldest son of Mr. Tooke, an eminent Russian merchant, and grandson of the Rev. W. Tooke, author of various works relating to Russia.

On quitting Cambridge he joined his father in his mercantile establishment, and became a Member of the Committee of the Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge, for whose publications he revised and prepared several treatises. Over application to his studies, in the prosecution of which many hours were stolen from those needful to rest, is supposed to have caused a morbid state of the brain, during an unfortunate moment of which he rushed by his own hands into the presence of his Maker. The *Morning Chronicle*, in recording the event, paid the following just tribute to his memory. "The loss of this amiable, able, and accomplished young gentleman, produced a great sensation yesterday. He was a youth of great promise, and by all who had the happiness of knowing him, he was exceedingly beloved. A more generous and benevolent heart than his never beat within a human bosom. His range

of information was unusually extensive for his years, and his judgment was extensive. He had already written several treatises which were much esteemed; and, with his research and sagacity, and uncompromising love of truth, had his life been spared, he could not have failed to become one of the chief ornaments of his age."

30. SEPTUAGESIMA SUNDAY.

Easter-day is not only the centre, but also the rule of all the other Feasts of the year, except that of Advent. Septuagesima is literally designed to signify the seventieth day before Easter, about which period it always falls. The earliest time at which it can arrive is the 18th of January, and the latest, the 22nd of February.

30. 1649. KING CHARLES I., MARTYR.

On this day the unfortunate Charles was beheaded before Whitehall. The sheet which received his head after decapitation is still very carefully preserved with the communion plate in the church of Ashburnham in Sussex; the blood with which it has been almost covered, now appears nearly black. The King's watch is also deposited with the linen, the movements of which are still perfect. These relics came into the possession of Lord Ashburnham immediately after the King's death.

His remains were taken to Windsor for interment. This fact was doubted until the year 1814, when his body was discovered by Sir Henry Halford, during some alterations and repairs at Windsor; the coffin bore an inscription—"King Charles, 1648."

THE FUNERAL OF CHARLES I. AT NIGHT IN ST. GEORGE'S CHAPEL, WINDSOR.*

BY THE REV. W. LISLE BOWLES.

The Castle-clock had tolled midnight,—
With mattock and with spade,
And silent, by the torches light,
His corse in earth we laid.

The coffin bore his name, that those
Of other years might know,
When Earth its secret should disclose,
Whose bones were laid below.

“PEACE TO THE DEAD” no children sung,
Slow pacing up the nave;
No prayers were read, no knell was rung,
As deep we dug his grave.

We only heard the winters' wind,
In many a sullen gust,
As o'er the open grave inclin'd,
We murmur'd, “Dust to Dust!”

A moon beam from the arches' height
Stream'd, as we paced the stone;
The long aisles started into light,
And all the windows shone.

We thought we saw the banners then,
That shook along the walls,
While the sad shades of mailed men
Were gazing from the stalls.

* As this composition might appear, in some terms of expression, to resemble a celebrated military funeral dirge (the death of Sir John Moore), I can only say, it was written soon after the account of the late disinterment of Charles. The metre and phrase is the same as some lines published twenty years ago:

O'er my poor Anna's lonely grave
No dirge shall sound, no bell shall ring.

Spirit of Discovery.

And buried Kings, a spectre train,
Seem'd in the dusk to glide,
As fitful, through the pillar'd fane,
Faint MISERERES died.

'Tis gone! again, on tombs defac'd,*
Sits darkness more profound,
And only, by the torch, we trac'd
Our shadows on the ground.

And now the chilly, freezing air,
Without, blew long and loud;
Upon our knees we breath'd one pray'r †
Where HE—slept in his shroud.

We laid the broken marble floor—
No name, no trace appears—
And when we closed the sounding door
We thought of him with tears.

1830. CAPTAIN BOTELAR DIED.

The death of this enterprising officer in January, who was employed by the government to survey the coast of Africa near Sierra Leone, in His M. S. Hecla, was preceded by the deaths of all his officers. Lieutenants Tambs and Wilson, with the master, surgeon, purser, and all the midshipmen, fell victims to the effects of the climate. Captain Botelar was one of the few surviving officers who accompanied Captain Owen on his survey of the eastern coasts of Africa and Madagascar, and for his services in which he was promoted to the rank of commander, and appointed to the service on which he unfortunately died.

BLESSING THE NEVA.

Mr. W. Rae Wilson, in his *Travels in Russia*, gives the following particulars of a curious ceremony, practised annually every January in that country :

“ During winter an odd ceremony takes place, namely

* Every thing in the chapel was defaced.

† The service of the prayer-book was forbidden.

that of pronouncing a benediction on the Neva. This religious rite, at which the imperial family are always present, is marked with extraordinary pomp. A temple of wood is erected on the ice, near the admiralty, with an effigy of John the Baptist, and ornamented with paintings representing various acts connected with the life of our Saviour. In the centre is suspended a figure of the Holy Spirit over a hole perforated in the ice, around which carpets are spread. The military are formed into line along the river; the bells of the churches are rung; cannon are fired; while the metropolitan, accompanied by a number of dignified ecclesiastics, enter this sanctum sanctorum. The metropolitan dips a crucifix into the aperture in the ice three times, uttering at the same time a prayer or ejaculation; and on this occasion St. Nicholas comes in for his share of adoration, as an indispensable part of the ceremony, a prayer being especially addressed to him. The pontiff then sprinkles the water on the people around, and also upon the colors of the regiments. On departure of the procession, a scramble takes place among the crowd, every one striving to kiss the sacred aperture. Nor do they omit, likewise, to carry away with them to their homes some of the water itself, to which they ascribe great virtue, particularly for purifying those infected with certain diseases. This ludicrous exhibition takes place in the month of January. It may be further mentioned, that it is a practice in the Greek church to extend its blessings even to inanimate objects, and it is supposed that the safety or destruction of those depend on the degree of fervour with which the benediction is bestowed."

FEBRUARY.

You have such a February face,
So full of frost, of storms, and cloudiness.

Shakspeare.

When Numa Pompilius was chosen by the people of Rome to succeed Romulus, he placed this month second in the year, and named it after the god *Februs*, who presided over the purifications, or from Juno, otherwise called *Februa*, *Februaca*, or *Februalis*, to whom the Lupercalia was celebrated in honor, when the women were purified by the priests of Pan. Lyceus, who were called Lupercals. During this month also the Romans held their feast called Terminalia in honor of *Terminus*, the god of Bounds. They also held their feast Equiria in the Campus Martius, which was solemnized with a horse racing. The month was dedicated by Numa to Neptune, the god of waters.

Verstegan says, "the Saxons called February *sprout-kele*, by kele meaning the kele-wurt, which we now call the colewurt, the greatest pot-wurt in time long past that our ancestors used, and the broth made therewith was thereof also called kele; for before we borrowed from the French the name of potage, and the name of hearbe, the one in our own language was called kele, and the other wurt; and as this kele-wurt, or potage

hearbe, was the chief winter-wurt for the sustenance of the husbandman, so it was the first hearbe in this moneth began to yeeld out wholsome young sprouts, and consequently gave thereunto the name of *sprout-kele*."

Pisces, or the fishes, is the zodaical sign for this month, which is said to symbolize the fishery of the Nile, usually commencing at this season of the year.

2. PURIFICATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY ; OR, CANDLEMAS DAY.

This is a festival of the reformed as well as the catholic church, and is of great antiquity. It was called *Candlemas Day* in consequence of the early Christians observing it by using a great number of lights; in remembrance, as it is supposed, of our Saviour's being declared by Simeon to be a light to lighten the Gentiles. This practice was continued in England till the time of Edward VI. when it was forbade by Archbishop Cranmer.

The Jewish law of *purification* ordered all women who were delivered of a male child, to separate themselves from the public congregation for forty days; and, in compliance with the commandment of God, that the first born of their cattle should be reserved for sacrifices, and the first born of children be presented to himself, to serve at the altar, it was customary for parents to present their first child to the priest, and afterwards redeem him at the price of five shekels. In fulfilment, therefore, of this ordination of the law of Moses, the Virgin Mary brought Jesus, her first born to the temple, to be consecrated to God; at the same time making an offering of a pair of turtle-doves for her own purification; and it is in remembrance of our Saviour's being thus presented that the day is now kept by us.

In former days an imaginary power over the elements was ascribed to wax tapers, similar to that which the early Greeks and Romans attributed to torches.

The use of tapers at vespers and litanies ceased from Candlemas until the ensuing All Hallow Mass; which gave origin to the following:—

On Candlemas day

Throw candle and candlestick away.

Ray's Proverbs.

3. ST. BLAISE.

He was Bishop of Sebaste, in Armenia, in the time of the Emperor Dioclesian, and, after undergoing great tortures in defence of the Christian religion, suffered martyrdom about the year 319, by order of Agricola, Governor of Cappadocia. He is said to have been the inventor of combing wool, but without any foundation. The woolcombers, however, have made him their patron Saint, and in most of the great wool counties of England his effigy is carried about on this day with much pomp and ceremony.

5. ST. AGATHA.

A native of Sicily, whose personal charms attracted the notice of Quintian, the governor of that island. Finding he could not accomplish his base purpose, he ordered her to sacrifice to the Pagan deities: which refusing to do, and avowing herself a Christian, she suffered various torments, being put to the rack, seared with hot irons, and finally her breasts cut off. Notwithstanding these cruelties she still survived in prison, where her prayers to God to receive her soul were heard, and she died in the year 251.

6. SEXAGESIMA SUNDAY.

So called from its being about the sixtieth day previous to Easter; before which it is the eighth Sunday. It is also the second before Lent.

6. 1830. ARGYLL ROOMS BURNT.



This resort of fashion (of which the above view will give a correct idea) had been long conspicuous for its balls, concerts, masquerades, and other fashionable amusements. It was situated on the eastern side of Regent-street, and was generally considered as the worst specimen of a building for public amusements in the kingdom: the rooms were cold, and bad both to see and hear in. It was built in 1819, by a committee of amateurs, under the superintendence of Mr. Wyatt; the committee, however, failed,—the building was sold—and the Commissioners for Woods and Forests became the purchasers. By them it was let to Mr. Welsh, a teacher of music, at a rent of £700 per annum, and by him let out for various exhibitions, assemblies, meetings, &c.

About eleven o'clock on the night of this day flames were seen issuing from the kitchen, immediately under the grand concert-room. In consequence of the severity of the weather the plugs were frozen, and no water could

be procured for more than a hour, by which time the whole building was in flames, beyond the power of possibility to subdue; and this immense range of rooms were entirely consumed, never again to rise; for the ground has since been occupied by several shops and residences. The cause of the accident is uncertain; some attribute it to heating the rooms for a concert; others to the heating of the oven for Mons. Chabert, the *Fire-King*, who had been exhibiting his salamander feats there for some time.

Whilst mentioning the *Fire-King*, it may not be inappropriate to give some slight account of a man who, for a time, occupied much of the public attention; and of whom the annexed sketch gives a perfect resemblance.



Xavier Chabert, according to his own account, is a native of Avignon, in the south of France, and served as a lieutenant in the army under Napoleon. During the memorable Russian campaign he was taken prisoner; but after his liberation, and the arrival of peace, he quitted the army and commenced the exhibition of those feats by which he has acquired much profit and some degree of notoriety.

Of the origin and honorable progress of Chabert, however, there appears some doubt, as in the *Biographia Curiosa*, published in 1820, appears the following paragraph appended to an account of a *Fire Queen*, named Signora Girardelli:—"Upon the great success of Girardelli, several minor salamanders started for public favor, particularly that famous Really Incombustible Phenomenon, Ivan Ivanitz Chabert, who boasted of having been shut up in a heated oven, with a shoulder of mutton, and remained therein till the mutton was baked; this, he said, was performed before the College of Physicians in Paris. He likewise could eat burning charcoal, and a lighted torch, with a fork, like a salad. He also offered his assistance to persons whose houses were on fire. This clever fellow exhibited in Pall Mall, London, 1818."

Ivan Ivanitz Chabert, the Russian, soon ceased to attract attention, and we lose sight of him until the 3rd of June, 1826, when *Monsieur Chabert* is announced to make an experiment at White Conduit House, Pentonville, of entering a hot oven, together with a quantity of meat, sufficient, when cooked, to regale those of his friends who were specially invited to witness his performance. Three large faggots of wood, which is the quantity generally used by bakers, was thrown into the oven, and set on fire, twelve more faggots of the same size were subsequently added to them, which being all consumed by 3 o'clock, Chabert entered the oven with a dish of raw meat, and when it was sufficiently done, he handed it out of the oven, and sat down to partake of it with his friends who had attended the culinary process.

He continued exhibiting at White Conduit House for some time, when he quitted the metropolis, and was not seen in it again until Mr. Welsh, the proprietor of the Argyll Rooms, engaged him at a stated salary, and by dint of clever puffing contrived to attract great notoriety. He not only baked himself, but professed to swallow phosphorous, prussic acid, and other deadly poisons. This naturally attracted great attention, and the room continued for some time literally thronged with the scientific and the curious. At length the imposture was discovered, a few days previous to the destruction of the

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Engraved by J. Smith.

Engraved by J. Smith.

Mary Queen of Scots.

rooms, by Mr. Wakley, the Editor of the *Lancet*, who challenged Chabert to take prussic acid administered by Mr. W. himself. The challenge was accepted, but when put to the jury and the company assembled, he positively refused to do it. This so enraged the company that the *Fire King* was urged to seek shelter by making his exit, avoiding himself the kitchen area. His re-appearance at the Ball Rooms was prevented by their being destroyed by fire. His appearance, since been before the public at some of the great events where the "over scene" has elicited both surprise and interest.

1537. MARY QUEEN OF SCOTS BEHEADED.

I sigh and lament me in vain,
 These walls can but echo my moan;
 Alas! it increases my pain
 When I think of the days that are gone.
 Thro' the grate of my prison I see
 The birds as they wanton in air;
 My heart, how it pants to be free
 My looks they are wild with despair.

Q. Mary.

This day is rendered memorable by the sacrifice of beautiful and unfortunate Mary to the treachery and ambition of Elizabeth. Her history is too long and too known to need any recapitulation here.

1541. MARY'S FAREWELL TO CHATELAIN.

He—the vision's spell is fled which bound my heart to thee,—

thy spirit seemeth lone, oh! gave one thought to me
 the thought enshrin'd with love, when once I saw thee
 or,

the sky gleams the star which lighted me—

—must wander where thou wilt—no more shall I see thee;

the waves kiss thy bark thou—no more shall I see thee of

—
 in summer lands thine eyes behold the favorite star,
 with lament for one whose heart was thine—my Chatelain!



My Dear Mother

Rooms, by Mr. Wakley, the Editor of the *Lancet*, who challenged Chabert to take prussic acid, administered by Mr. W. himself. The challenge was accepted, but when put to the test, and the company assembled, he positively refused to take it. This so enraged the company that the *Fire King* was obliged to seek shelter by making his exit and hiding himself in the kitchen area. His re-appearance at the Argyll Rooms was prevented by their being destroyed by fire. He has, however, since been before the public at some of the Theatres, where his "oven scene" has elicited both surprise and applause.

8. 1587. MARY QUEEN OF SCOTS BEHEADED.

I sigh and lament me in vain,
 These walls can but echo my moan ;
 Alas ! it increases my pain
 When I think of the days that are gone.

Thro' the grate of my prison I see
 The birds as they wanton in air ;
 My heart, how it pants to be free,
 My looks they are wild with despair.

Q. Mary's Lament.

This day is rendered memorable by the sacrifice of the beautiful and unfortunate Mary to the treachery and ambition of Elizabeth. Her history is too long and too well known to need any recapitulation here.

QUEEN MARY'S FAREWELL TO CHATELAR.

Farewell—the vision's spell is fled which bound my heart to thee,—

But when thy spirit seemeth lone, oh ! give one thought to me ;
 One gentle thought enshrin'd with love, when, like a heavenly
 flow'r,

Amid the blue sky gleams the star which lighted up our bow'r.

Ay—thou mayst wander where thou wilt,—upon the restless sea ;
 But as the sweet waves kiss thy bark thou still shall think of
 me ;—

And when in summer lands thine eyes behold our favorite star,
 Thou wilt lament for one whose heart was thine—my Chatelar !

The beautiful—the young—the brave—Oh! such indeed wert thou ;

And thought had set its silent stamp upon thy beauteous brow ;
The music of thy name awak'd such dreams of bliss in me,
That, like a bird in solitude, my heart will pine for thee.

Farewell—farewell—I clung to thee as clings the gentle dove
To him who oft entranc'd her ear with passion-songs of love ;
Thy clustering curls, thy eyes that beam'd serenely as a star,
Had charms to link my life with thine—my noble Chatelar !

But go—the sword is at thy side—there's glory yet for thee ;—
Go where the plumes are toss'd on high like storm-waves of
the sea,—

Where spear meets spear with echoing clash amid the strife of
war,—

But still think on thy captive rose—my gallant Chatelar !

Or seek the hall where maidens bloom more lovely than the
flow'rs

Enwreath'd around their snowy brows,—the pride of festal
hours ;

The lute, the song, the dance, are there, and the gleam of many
a light,

But lone and pensive wilt thou be when they attract thy sight.

Oh! there are tears that fall like rain from summer skies of blue,
And refresh the pale and withering cheeks their liquid drops
bedew ;

And there are tears that call up buried memories from afar ;
And such, oh! such are mine now thou art gone—my Chatelar !

G. R. Carter.

13. QUINQUAGESIMA SUNDAY.

So called from being about the fiftieth day before
Easter. It is the first Sunday before Shrove Tuesday,
and the seventh before Easter.

14. ST. VALENTINE.

A priest at Rome, who was beheaded during the per-
secution of Claudius II. about the year 270. Of his
history very little is known.

Dr. Forster says: "The vulgar custom of sending Valentines on this day had its origin in an endeavour of several zealous persons of the clerical order to put an end to the superstitious practice of boys drawing by lots the names of girls, in honour of Juno Februata, celebrated on the 15th of February in ancient Rome. Instead of this custom they permitted the names of Saints to be drawn for a child's game, which might be made subservient, like many others, to recollections of religious history. These got the name of Valentines, but being afterwards much abused and converted into love-letters, the ceremony degenerated again into the pagan and foolish custom which characterized its first introduction."

The rural tradition, that birds choosing their mates on this day gave rise to the custom of drawing Valentines, has been a favourite idea with our poets, from Chaucer to the present time. That ancient bard supposes Nature thus to address the feathered choir on the fourteenth of February:—

Ye know well, how on St. Valentine's day,
By my statute and through my governaunce,
Ye doe not chuse your mates, and after flie away
With them as I pricke you with pleasaunce.

Shakspeare, also, alludes to the same notion in his *Midsummer Night's Dream*.

The ceremony of this day, however, has been attributed to various sources, beside the tradition mentioned. The legend itself of St. Valentine contains nothing which could give origin to the custom; notwithstanding the inference drawn by Wheatley*, that "from the great

* See Illustration of the Common Prayer.

love and charity of that Saint, the custom of choosing Valentines upon his festival took its rise." For were not all Saints famous for their love and charity? And surely the writer does not mean that we should understand the word love as implying gallantry!

Another opinion, that because ghosts were formerly thought to walk on the night of this day, or about this time, that gallantry had, at the Reformation, taken up an idea which superstition had been compelled to drop, is equally unsatisfactory; since we have unquestionable authority from the *Paston Correspondence*, that the custom of choosing Valentines was common in the reign of Edward IV. Margaret Brew, in a letter printed in Sir John Fenn's collection of these curious documents, dated February, 1476, addresses it to her "Right well beloved Valentine, John Paston, Esq." The letter itself contains the genuine dictates of the heart of a young lady deeply in love, and apprehensive that her father will not give her such a fortune on her marriage as the gentleman who paid his addresses to her expected, she therefore fears the continuance of his affection, but assuring him of hers, says: "Right reverende and worschipful, and my right well-beloved Voluntyne, I recomainde me unto you full heretely, desyring to here of your wellfare, which I beseche Almighty God long for to preserve unto hys plesur, and your herts desyr."

The style of the whole, though obsolete, is extremely tender, and could not be easily exceeded by a Valentine of the present day. She tells him, "if it pleases him to here of her wellfare, she is not in good health of body, nor herte, nor shall she be tyll she hears from him." And concludes by desiring him to destroy her letter

when he has read it, as she would on no account have any one know what she has written to him.

Lydgate, the monk of Bury, in some complimentary verses on Catherine, Queen of Henry V., says,

Seynt Valentine of custome yeere by yeere,
Men have an usance in this region
To loke and serche Cupid's Kalendere,
And chose theyr choyse by grete affection.

Wharton has preserved a specimen of a curious French Valentine, composed by Gower, the contemporary of Chaucer*.

Charles Duke of Orleans, father of Louis VII., when a prisoner in England, composed some verses in honour of this festival; and other allusions are made to it by early writers, sufficient to prove the origin of the custom to be long anterior to the period stated.

Some have asserted this to have been an observance peculiar to Carnival time, which occurred anciently at this season of the year, when it was usual for vast numbers of Knights to visit the courts of Europe, where they entertained the ladies with pageantry and tournaments. Each lady at these magnificent feats, selected, we are told, a knight, who engaged to serve her for a whole year, and to perform whatever she choose to command. One of the never-failing consequences of the engagement was an injunction to employ his muse in the celebration of his mistress; and hence the custom of writing and sending verses and love-letters on this day.

Menage accounts for the term *Valentine*, by stating that Madame Royale, daughter of King Henry IV. of France, having built a palace near Turin, which, in

* See Wharton's History of English Poetry.

honour of the Saint, then in high esteem, she called *the Valentine*, at the first entertainment which she gave in it, was pleased to order that the ladies should receive their lovers *for the year* by lots, reserving to herself the privilege of being independent of chance, and of choosing her own partner. At the various balls which this gallant princess gave during the year, it was directed that each lady should receive a nosegay from her lover, and that at every tournament, the knight's trappings for his horse should be furnished by his allotted mistress, with this proviso, that the prize obtained should be hers. This custom, says Menage, occasioned the parties to be called Valentines*.

A writer of the early part of the seventeenth century tells us: that at this festival the men used to make the women presents, as, upon another occasion, the women used to do to the men; but that presents were to that day made reciprocally in Scotland. To which Pennant adds, that in February young persons draw Valentines, and from thence collect their future fortunes in the nuptial state†.

In the *British Apollo*, published in 1708, is the following illustration of this subject:—

“ *Question.* In choosing Valentines (according to custom), is not the party choosing (be it man or woman) to make a present to the party chosen ?

“ *Answer.* We think it more proper to say drawing Valentines, since the most customary way is for each to take his or her lot; and chance cannot be termed choice. According to this method, the obligations are equal, and therefore it was

* See Menage's Etymological Dictionary.

† See Pennant's Tour in Scotland.

formerly the custom mutually to present; but now it is customary only for the gentleman."

Again the same authority says:—

Why Valentine's a day to choose
A mistress, and our freedom lose?
May I my reason interpose,
The question with an answer close?
To imitate we have a mind,
And couple like the winged kind.

Grose explains Valentine to mean the first woman seen by a man, or man seen by a woman on this day.

Mr. Donne gives a very probable conjecture that the custom of Valentines is a relic of Paganism. He says: "It was the practice of ancient Rome, during a great part of the month of February, to celebrate the *Lupercalia*, which were feasts in honour of Pan and Juno, whence the latter deity was named *Februata*, *Februalis*, and *Februella*. On this occasion, amidst a variety of ceremonies, the names of every young woman were put into a box, from which they were drawn by the men as chance directed. The pastors of the early Christian church, who, by every possible means, endeavoured to eradicate the vestiges of Pagan superstitions, and chiefly by some commutation of their forms, substituted, in the present instance, the names of particular Saints, instead of those of the woman; and, as the festival of the *Lupercalia* commenced about the middle of February, they appear to have chosen St. Valentine's Day for celebrating the new feast, because it occurred nearly at the same time. This is in part Butler's opinion in his *Lives of the Saints*. It should seem, however, that it was utterly impossible to extirpate altogether any ceremony to which the common people had been much accustomed; a fact

which it were easier to prove, in tracing the origin of various other popular superstitions; and, accordingly, the outline of the ancient ceremonies was preserved, but modified by some adaptation to the Christian system. It is reasonable to suppose that the above practice of choosing mates would gradually become reciprocal in the sexes; and that all persons so chosen, would be called Valentines, from the day on which the ceremony took place*."

The modes of ascertaining the Valentine for the year, were nearly the same formerly as at present; they consisted either in drawing lots on Valentine's Eve, or in considering the person whom you met early in the following morning as the destined object. In the former case, the names of a certain number of the fair sex were, by an equal number of the other, put into a vase, which, for the time, was termed their Valentine, and was considered as predictive of their future fortune in marriage; in the second there was usually some little contrivance adopted, in order that the favourite object, when such existed, might be first seen. To this custom Shakspeare refers, when he represents Ophelia, in her distraction, singing

Good morrow, 'tis Saint Valentine's day,
All in the morning betime,
And I a maid at your window,
To be your Valentine.

In the *Connoisseur* is a curious species of divination, as practised on Valentine's Day, or Eve: it is supposed to be a communication from a young lady to the author:—

* Douce's Illustrations of Shakspeare.

“Last Friday was Valentine’s Day, and the night before I got five bay leaves, and pinned four of them to the four corners of my pillow, and the fifth to the middle; and then, if I dreamed of my sweetheart, Betty said we should be married before the year was out. But to make it more sure, I boiled an egg hard, and took out the yolk and filled it with salt; and when I went to bed, ate it, shell and all, without speaking or drinking after it. We also wrote our lover’s names upon bits of paper, and rolled them up in clay, and put them into water, and the first that rose up was to be our Valentine—would you think it! Mr. Blossom was my man! I lay a-bed, and shut my eyes all the morning, till he came to our house, for I would not have seen any other man before him for all the world.”

The practice of sitting cross-legged, and sending presents to the person chosen, has been continued to modern times: and we may add a trait, not now observed perhaps, on the authority of an old English ballad, in which the lasses are directed to pray cross-legged to St. Valentine for good luck.

Although not *exactly* devoted to St. Valentine, yet, as this is a day inscribed to lovers, we may be excused for introducing, through the medium of our *Telescope*, so lovely an object as

THE EGYPTIAN MAIDEN.*

Sunset had thrown its latest smile
On the blue waters of the Nile,

* The oldest of historians record a very beautiful custom common among the damsels of Egypt. They would go out at night-fall to the damp banks of the Nile to watch their little floating lamps as they glided upon the bosom of its waters, at the same time chaunting hymns of love to the appropriate

And when the evening star appear'd,
Woman's low, trembling voice was heard;
Then came a dark-eyed maid to prove,
With beating heart, the lore of love!

She came to try a powerful spell,
The strength of plighted vows can tell;
Her burning lamp, with odours fill'd,
And extracts, from fair flowers distill'd,
Slow, to the eddying stream she gave,
Then sung to her who rules the wave,—

“ Float on, float on, my token light,
Nor heed the cold, damp dews of night;
Float on, float on, with conscious flame,
Trace every letter of my name,
That he may know, to whom you glide,
Who placed you on the fickle tide;
Hear, Goddess, hear, behold my tears,
Thou knowest all a maiden's fears.

“ Keep the storm-spirit from its path,
Too weak to meet the tempests' wrath;
O! guard it from the wild birds' wing,
Too weak to meet the breath of spring;
Hope lingers till that feeble ray
Fades from my aching sight away,
Then, Goddess, hear, behold my tears,
Thou knowest all a maiden's fears.”

goddess of the ceremony. If the light was extinguished they departed in tears, to indulge the lonely sorrow of Jephtha's daughter, when she called on the virgins of Mizpeh to lament, that her footsteps should be no longer seen upon the mountains, nor her voice be heard among the stately maids of Judah. If it passed down the tide glimmering fainter and fainter till lost in the distance, they returned with songs and gladness, for they then knew that their lovers were faithful in their absence to their early vows.

S. S. B.

The distant torch seem'd sinking now,
 She dash'd the green wreath from her brow ;
 It gleam'd again—then came the flush
 That mantled in young love's first blush,
 And ever as it rose or fell,
 Answer'd her throbbing bosom's swell.

Slowly it pass'd beyond her ken,
 She stood in speechless rapture then,
 Her only voice—the sigh of bliss,
 Brought to her cheek her lover's kiss,
 And there they knelt—love's records tell,
 And bless'd the Goddess, and the spell.

S. S. Boyd.

15. SHROVE TUESDAY.

Let glad Shrove Tuesday bring the pancake thin,
 Or fritter rich, with apples stored within.

Oxford Sausage.

Shrove Tuesday, or, as it is more commonly termed, Pancake-day, from the custom of eating pancakes on this day, is still observed in many families. Shrove Tide means the time of confessing sins, the Saxon word *Shrive*, or *Shrift*, meaning confession. Hence Shrove Tuesday means Confession Tuesday; on which day all the people in every parish throughout the kingdom, in Catholic times, were obliged to confess their sins, one by one, to their parish priests, in their own parish churches; and that this might be done the more regularly, the great bell in every parish was rung at ten o'clock, or perhaps sooner, that it might be heard by all.

From the practice of piety which it was the intention of the early church to encourage, this day degenerated into one of riot and disorder, distinguished for its idle sports, cock-fighting, bull-baiting, and similar barbarous amusements.

In Fitz-Stephen's account of London, about Henry the Second's time, it is stated, that "the boys of every school do yearly at Shrove-tide bring game cocks to their masters, and all the forenoon is spent in school in seeing these cocks fight together." This practice was continued for several centuries; and even lately, in different parts of the North, and in Scotland. In an account of the latter country printed in Edinburgh in 1792, the schoolmaster of Applecross, in Ross, is mentioned as having among his perquisites, "the cock-fight dues, which are equal to one quarter's payment for each scholar." Dean Colet in his statutes for the government of St. Paul's School, 1518, left this order:—"I will they use no cock-fighting, nor riding about of victorie, nor disputing at St. Bartilemeeve, which is but foolish babbling and losse of time."

Another shameful practice at this period was Whipping the cock, or throwing at the cock. Hearne, the antiquary, says:—"The custom of throwing at cocks must be traced to the time of Henry V. and the victories then gained over the French, whose name, in Latin, is synonymous to that of a cock; and that our brave countrymen hinted by it that they could as easily, at any time, overthrow the Gallic armies as they could knock down the cocks on Shrove Tuesday." The practice, however, prevailed in England long before this period. Carpenter in his Glossary, under the date 1355, mentions a petition of the scholars of Ramera to their master, soliciting him to "give them a cock," which they affirm, "their said master owed them upon Shrove Tuesday, to throw sticks at, according to the usual custom, for their sport and entertainment."

Trusler, in his *Hogarth Moralized*, describing the *Four Stages of Cruelty*, says:—"We have several groups of boys at their barbarous diversions; one is, throwing at a cock, the universal Shrove-tide amusement, beating the harmless feathered animal to jelly."

Threshing of the cock was another diversion. In *Tusser Redivivus*, we are told

At Shrove-tide to shroving, next thresh the fat Hen;
If blindfold can kill her, then give it thy men:

To these lines is appended a note descriptive of the practice:—"The Hen is hung on a fellow's back, who has also some horse-bells about him; the rest of the fellows are blinded, and have boughs in their hands, with which they chase this fellow and his Hen and bells, shifting as well as he can, they follow the sound, and sometimes hit him and his Hen; other times, if he can get behind one of them, they thresh one another well favouredly: but the jest is, the maids are to blind the fellows, which they do with their aprons, and the cunning baggages will endear their sweethearts with a peeping hole, while the others look out as sharp to hinder it. After this the Hen is boiled with bacon, and store of Pancakes and fritters are made." Much to the credit of the present age these disgraceful practices are now almost entirely exploded.

The custom of eating Pancakes on this day is very ancient. Taylor, commonly called the Water Poet, in his *Jack-a-Lent*, says:—"In the morning, at the entrance of Shrove Tuesday, all the whole kingdom is unquiet; but by that time the clocke strikes eleven, which (by the help of a knavish sexton) is commonly before nine, then there is a bell rung, called the *Pancake*-

Bell, the sound whereof makes thousands of people distracted, and forgetful either of manners or humanitie; then there is a thing called wheeten floure, which the cookes do mingle with water, egges, spice, and other tragicall, magicall inchantments, and then they put it by little and little into a frying-pan of boiling suet, where it makes a confused dismall hissing (like the Lernean snakes in the reeds of Acheron, Stix, or Phlegeton), untill at last, by the skill of the cooke, it is transformed into the form of a Flip-Jack, called a Pancake, which ominous incantation the ignorant people do devoure very greedily."

In the North of England, Shrove Tuesday is called *Fasten's Ee'n* or *Fasting's Eve*, from the succeeding day being the first of the Lenten fast.

16. ASH WEDNESDAY.

This is the first day of Lent, on which, in the Romish church, the priests heard the confessions of those who had neglected to conform to the established rules of worship, or who had committed any particular sin. The priest after confession clothed them in sackcloth, laid ashes on their heads, then sprinkled them with Holy Water, and repeated the seven penitential psalms over them, as they lay prostrate on the earth. They then walked in procession barefooted, and were not admitted into the church again till Maundy Thursday, when they received absolution.

The practice of strewing ashes on the heads of sinners was derived to the Christians of the first ages from the Jews; and the example of Job's friends is a proof that this was not peculiar to the children of Israel. Tertullian's *Treatise of Penance*, and St. Cyprian's *Book*

of those who fell, clearly show that sackcloth and ashes were in the most early times of Christianity made use of as marks of penance, according to the established canons of the church.

The practice of receiving ashes from the hands of the priest on this day became general in the eleventh century; for Rupert Abbot of Duytz, who wrote towards the beginning of the twelfth century, observes, in his *Treatise of the Divine Offices*, that the church then used this ceremony.

The Lenten fast, which commences on this day, is an ordinance of the church in imitation of the forty days in which Christ fasted in the wilderness; it seems ordained by the wisdom of the ancient fathers as a suitable penance, and is calculated to fit the mind for more intense meditation and for mental exertion in general, to which the vegetable diet certainly conduces. On fasting, much is to be said in a medical point of view. Forster observes:—"If not carried too far, it is very useful in clearing the blood of redundant and vicious humours, and in relieving the stomach from the too great action into which it is habitually called by our habits of repletion. By lessening the impetus of the circulation, likewise, it relieves the brain from pressure, and qualifies the mind in an eminent degree for the holy meditations and offices of the season of penance. Abstinence from flesh meat is also a salutary adjunct to fasting, and we are persuaded that the periodical fasts and abstinences of the church have a good physical effect on the body, as well as on the mind; and thus, in the consolidated wisdom of our forefathers, was contemplated the three-fold benefit of health of body, vigilance and purity of

mind, and salutary penance for sins, by a periodical observance, which nothing but the idle, lazy, and dissipated gourmand of an age of refinement would venture to impugn."

20. QUADRAGESIMA; OR, FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT.

SABBATH MORNING.

Now along the morning gale

Tolls the church-bell soft and slowly,

And o'er mountain, wood, and vale,

Sleeps the sabbath silence holy.

Not a human voice is heard,

Voice of labour or of pleasure,

Mingling with the tuneful bird,

As it trills its early measure.

Now, from every mountain glen,

Scenes of unpolluted nature,

Come the lonely shepherd men

Peace in every heart and feature.

Now along the village way,

Clad in meet and homely dresses,

Matrons staid, and maidens gay,

Join the crowd that church-ward presses.

Now the youthful and the old,

Now the cheerful and the weeping,

Tread along the flowery mould

Where their kindred dust is sleeping.

Now the pious spirit glows,

Now the holy psalm is singing,

Bringing thoughts of long repose,

Thoughts of endless glory bringing.

23, 25, 26. EMBER DAYS.

The Ember days are the Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday after the first Sunday in Lent, and after the 13th of December. It is enjoined by a canon of the church, "that Deacons and Ministers be ordained,

or made, but only on the Sundays immediately following these Ember Feasts."—*Nelson*.

24. ST. MATTHIAS.

Very little is known of this Saint except what is mentioned of him in the first chapter of the Acts of the Apostles. He is supposed to have been one of the seventy disciples, and was a constant attendant upon our Saviour from the time of his baptism by St. John until his ascension. After the death of Judas Iscariot, St. Peter recommended the necessity of supplying his place, and Matthias was appointed. The first years of his ministry were passed at Judea; and afterwards, according to St. Jerome, near the river Asparus, and the haven Ilyssus; where, according to some accounts, he was barbarously murdered by the inhabitants. The particulars of his death, however, are veiled in great obscurity; and other authors affirm him to have been travelling towards Jerusalem in the year 62, when he was seized, and carried before Ananias the high-priest, who had before inhumanly caused the murder of James the Just, and by his orders Matthias was first stoned and afterwards beheaded.

24. 1774. DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE BORN.

Adolphus Frederick, youngest living son of George the Third, was married May 7, 1818, to Augusta Wilhelmina Louisa, niece of the Landgrave of Hesse.

25. 1830. MRS. H. BOWDLER DIED, ÆTAT. 76.

This lady was sister to the late Thomas Bowdler, F. R. S., the editor of the *Family Shakspeare*, and daughter of Mrs. Bowdler, the author of *Practical Observations on the Revelation of St. John*.

Mrs. H. Bowdler was the author of two volumes of *Poems*

and *Essays* which were very popular. She also wrote *Sermons on the Doctrines and Duties of Christianity*, of which it is said, that Bishop Porteus was so pleased with them, that, under the idea that they were the production of a clergyman, he offered, through the publisher, to confer a living on the author. In 1810 she edited *Fragments in Prose and Verse by Elizabeth Smith*; which went through several editions. The profits of her literary pursuits were always applied to charitable purposes.

28. 1830. LADY AUGUSTA DE AMELAND DIED.

This lady, daughter of the Earl of Dunmore, was married at Rome, April 4th, 1793, to his Royal Highness the Duke of Sussex, and the ceremony was repeated at St. George's, Hanover Square, in the December following. The alliance, however, was declared null and void by the Prerogative Court in August, 1794, in consequence of the Act 12th Geo. III. ch. 11, prohibiting the descendants of George II. to marry without permission from the Crown. The issue of this marriage was a son and a daughter, both of whom are still living. After her ladyship's separation from the Duke, she obtained Royal license, in October 1806, to use the name of de Ameland, which she took out of respect to her descent from that ancient family.



MARCH.

March, various, fierce and wild, with wind-crackt cheeks,
By wilder Welshmen led, and crowned with leeks.

Churchill.

THE third month of our year was the first of the Roman year previous to the time of Numa Pompilius. It was named Martius, by Romulus, in honour of his supposed father Mars; and was placed under the protection of Minerva. The Romans had numerous feasts and festivals during this month.

Speaking of our Saxon ancestors, Verstegan says:—"the moneth of March they called *Lenat Monat*, that is, according to our new orthography, *Length-moneth*, because the dayes did then first begin in length to exceed the nights. And this moneth being by our ancestors so called when they received Christianity, and, consequently, therewith the ancient Christian custome of fasting, they called this chiefe season of fasting the fast of Lenet, because of the Lenet-monat, whereon the most part of the time of this fasting alwayes fell; and hereof it cometh that we now call it Lent, it being rather the fast of Lent, thogh the former name of *Lenet-monat* be long since lost, and the name of March borrowed in stead thereof."

The zodaical sign of this month is *Aries*, or the Ram,

and is said to have been derived by the Greeks, from the golden fleece brought from Colchis, by Jason, about 1263 years before Christ; it is, however, no doubt of higher antiquity, and was intended to symbolize the season when sheep yearn their lambs.

This month is thus delineated by Peacham:—"March is drawn in tawny, with a fierce aspect, a helmet upon his head, to shew this moneth was dedicated to Mars, his father; the sign *Aries* in his right hand, leaning upon a spade; in his left hand almond blossomes and scients; upon his arm a basket of garden seed."

1. ST. DAVID.

The patron saint of Wales, was the son of Xantus, or Santus, prince of Ceretica, now Cardiganshire, and born about the close of the sixth century. Being brought up to the church, he was ordained priest; he then retired to the Isle of Wight, and for some time lived in the accustomed solitude of those times. From this he at length emerged and went into Wales, where he preached to the Britons. He built a chapel at Glastonbury, and founded twelve monasteries, the principal of which was in the vale of Ross, near Menevia: of this monastery frequent mention is made in the acts of the Irish saints. The rules he established for his monasteries were, as usual, rigid, but not so injudicious or absurd as some of the early monastic statutes. One of his penances was manual labor in agriculture; and, for some time at least, there was no accumulation of worldly goods, for whoever was admitted as a member, was enjoined to leave every thing of that kind behind him. When the synod of Brevy in Cardiganshire was held in the year 519, St.

David was invited to it, and was one of its chief champions against Pelagianism. At the close of this synod, St. Dubricius, archbishop of Caerlon-upon-Usk, resigned his see to St David, who translated it to Menevia, now called St. David's: here he died, according to most authorities, about the year 544, in a very advanced age. Bale, however, says he died in 642, at the great age of 146 years. He has been much praised for his eloquence and power in conversion, and has, according to them, been in all succeeding ages the glory of the British church.

INSCRIPTION FOR A MONUMENT IN HONOR OF St. DAVID,
TO BE ERECTED IN THE VALE OF EWIAS.

BY ROBERT SOUTHEY, LL.D.

Here was it, stranger, that the Patron Saint
Of Cambria past his age of penitence,
A solitary man; and here he made
His hermitage, the roots his food, his drink
Of Hodney's mountain stream. Perchance thy youth
Has read, with eager wonder, how the Knight
Of Wales, in Ormandine's enchanted bower
Slept the long sleep; and, if that in thy veins
Flow the pure blood of Britain, sure that blood
Hath flowed with quicker impulse at the tale
Of DAVID's deeds, when thro' the press of war
His gallant comrades followed his *green crest*
To conquest. Stranger! Hatterill's mountain heights
And this fair Vale of Ewias, and the stream
Of Hodney, to thine after thoughts will rise
More grateful, thus associate with the name
Of David, and the deeds of other days.

The custom of wearing a leek on this day by the Welch, is of very ancient date. In a book printed in 1678, called *Festa Anglo-Romana*, it is stated, that on

this day the Britons do constantly wear a leek, in memory of a famous and notable victory obtained by them over the Saxons; they, during the battle, having *Leeks in their hats*, for their military colors, and distinction of themselves, by persuasion of their prelate, St. David."

Another writer affirms, that the Welch were fighting under their king, Cadwallo, at Hathfield, or Hatfield Chase, in Yorkshire, near a field that was replenished with that vegetable, at the time when the bishop recommended the wearing of the leek, that they might distinguish their friends from their enemies in the heat of the battle.

King James the First, in his *Royal Apophthegms*, says: "The Welchmen, in commemoration of the great fight by the Black Prince of Wales, do wear *leeks* as their chosen ensign." We think the royal author must have been wrong in assigning the origin of the custom to the battle of Poitiers, which was fought on the 19th of September, 1356, which can have no connection with St. David's day, and the circumstance is not traced to any other authority.

2. ST. CHAD.

St. Ceadda, or Chad, is supposed to have been born in Northumberland, and received his education in the monastery of Lindisfarne, under St. Aidan. He afterwards studied the scriptures under St. Egbert, in Ireland, until his brother, St. Cedd, being made bishop of London, called him home, and appointed him abbot of Lestigny in Yorkshire. He afterwards became bishop of York, and finally bishop of Lichfield; in which place he died during a great pestilence, in the year 672. All his leisure time was spent in a cell in Lichfield,

on the spot of which now stands a church bearing his name.

7. PERPETUA.

A married lady of noble family in Carthage, who, at the age of twenty-two, suffered martyrdom under the persecution of the emperor Severus, for her adherence to Christianity, in the year 203. She had an infant at her breast, of which she was deprived when thrown into prison; and neither the loss of her child, the persuasions of her father and husband, nor the fear of tortures and death, could alter her resolution of firm adherence to her faith.

8. 1830. F. J. KLOSE DIED.

A musical professor and composer of some eminence, born in London. He studied music under the celebrated Francesco Tomich, and was a member of most of the orchestras in London. As a composer, his chief excellence consisted in ballads of a pathetic and sentimental cast, of which his catalogue is very numerous. Lord Byron's *Adieu, adieu my native Land*, and Lady Lamb's *Canst thou bid my heart forget*, have always been especial favourites.

11. 1830. MARQUIS LALLY DE TOLENDAL DIED, ÆTAT. 79.

Tropheme Gerard, Marquis de Lally-Tolendal, Peer of France, Minister of State, a Privy Councillor, Member of the Institute, &c., was the son of the brave but unfortunate Count Lally*, and born in the year 1751 at Paris. He was educated at the college of Harcourt, and, according to his own statement,

* Count Lally, an Irish Officer of a family who had followed the fortunes of James II., entered the French army and signalized himself in the battle of Fontenoy, on the field of which he was made a brigadier-general. In 1756 he was appointed commander-in-chief of the French army in India, where he was made prisoner at the taking of Pondicherry by the English. When he was allowed to return to France from this country, he was thrown into prison on a charge of having sold Pondi-

did not know who was his father till the day before his execution, nor who his mother was till four years after her death. The expenses of his education were defrayed by his cousin the Countess Dillon, and by Louis XV.

One of the first acts of Lally, when he arrived at maturity, was to obtain justice to the memory of his father. In his efforts he received the assistance of Voltaire and many eminent men of the time, and ultimately his labours were crowned with success. In 1783 the decrees of the council annulled the judgments of the parliament respecting his father: on this occasion Lally first displayed that superior eloquence for which he was so eminently distinguished ever after.

M. de Lally's fame had now spread abroad. An eventful period was opening before him. His reputation for eloquence and general talent was so thoroughly established, that in 1789, he was elected deputy from the nobility of Paris to the States-General. He soon became one of the most popular members of the Constituent Assembly; gave his support to the famous declaration of the Rights of Man, proposed by La Fayette; and afterwards suggested, by way of amendment to that declaration, that all citizens should be equally admissible to public employments, without any distinction but that which might arise from virtue and talent. This suggestion was adopted by acclamation. M. de Lally, however, did not carry his notions of liberty so far as many of his coadjutors, but argued strenuously for a constitution, agreeably to the model of the British Government. Not finding himself sufficiently supported in his views, and lamenting the calamitous scenes which ensued, he

cherry to the enemy. This charge was made, without the least foundation, by a strong party who had conspired his destruction, as the only means of preserving their own lives and characters, they having amassed immense treasures by malversations which they knew the General had both the means and the intention of bringing them to an account for. His enemies, however, triumphed; he was found guilty, and within six hours of the sentence being made known to him he was hurried away, gagged, and beheaded. In 1783 the innocence of the murdered veteran was clearly established, the attainder reversed, and his estates and honors restored to his son.

resigned his seat and took refuge in Switzerland. In 1792 he returned, and exerted himself with great energy in defence of Louis XVI. He was, in consequence, arrested, and sent to the Abbaye; from whence he had the good fortune to escape to England, where he received a pension from government.

When Bonaparte assumed the consulate he went back to France; but taking scarcely any part in public affairs, he lived much in retirement, devoting himself to literature and the charms of domestic life, till the restoration of the Bourbons in 1814. He accompanied Louis XVIII. to Ghent, as one of the members of the Privy Council; and he is supposed to have been the author of the manifesto addressed by Louis to the French nation. In the new arrangement of the Chamber of Deputies he was created a marquis. Among other productions, he published an *Essay on the Life of the Earl of Strafford*; the *Earl of Strafford*, a tragedy; and a *Defence of Louis XVI.**

12. ST. GREGORY,

Surnamed the Great, was born in Rome, of rich parents, about the year 544. From his earliest years he discovered great genius and judgment, and applying himself particularly to the apophthegms of the ancients, and the conversation of old men, he fixed every thing worth remembrance in his memory. The emperor, Justin the younger, appointed him prefect of Rome, but being much more inclined for a monastic life, he quitted that

* The family of Lally, or Mullally, (formerly Maolala) is of great antiquity, the Linea Antiqua beginning with "Con of the hundred battles," who mounted the throne of Ireland, A. D. 177. From him are descended, since that period to the invasion of the English, A. D. 1171, all the royal families of Ulster, Meath, and Connaught, together with their spreading branches. In this Linea are counted twenty-six generations, from "Con" to "Maolala" inclusive. Maolala flourished about A. D. 970. From him came the surname of O'Maolala, or O'Mullally, or Lally, assumed by his posterity. From Maolala to Gerard Lally, the grandfather of the Marquis, are counted twenty-three generations.—*Gent's Mag.* vol. c. p. 464.

post and retired to the monastery of St. Andrew, which he himself had founded in Rome. Besides this, he established six convents in Sicily, and, selling all his other possessions, gave the purchase-money to the poor. He afterwards became secretary to Pope Pelagius, who dying in the year 590, Gregory was chosen his successor.

One of the first acts of his papal power was the sending St. Augustine and forty other missionaries to Briton for the conversion of our forefathers, which Gregory lived to see effected much to his satisfaction, as he had long meditated that object. He also reformed the psalms, of which he was excessively fond, and composed numerous tunes suited to psalms, hymns, &c. After filling the papal chair with great usefulness for fourteen years, he died universally lamented in 604.

In the English almanacks he is styled *Gregory Martyr*, for what reason there is no authority to decide. It is obviously an error, as he died from the effects of age and continual illness, surrounded by his friends.

13. 1830. HON. DOUGLAS KINNAIRD DIED,
ÆTAT. 42.

The fourth son of the late Lord Kinnaird, was born February 26, 1788, and received his early education at Eton, from whence he was sent to Gottingen to study the German and French languages. He afterwards removed to Cambridge, where he formed an acquaintance with Lord Byron and Mr. Hobhouse; with the latter he travelled in 1813, through Sweden, and across the north of Germany to Vienna, and was present at the decisive battle of Cuhm. After his return to England he was actively engaged in the banking-house of Ransom and Morland; and when the old partnership was dissolved, he assumed the chief management of the firm now known by the former of those names. In 1815 he became one of the committee of management at Drury Lane Theatre. After a slight

illness of about two months he died peaceably and without pain. He was a man of considerable abilities and activity of mind. Though not learned, he was fond of literature; and there are few subjects of general discussion on which he was not competently informed. His station and fortune enabled him to indulge a well cultivated taste for all the liberal arts. He was intimate with Sheridan, and his name was one of the last Byron was heard to pronounce.

13. MID LENT SUNDAY.

This is the fourth Sunday in Lent, and was formerly called the Sunday of the Five Loaves, the Sunday of Bread, and the Sunday of Refreshment, in allusion to the gospel appointed for this day. It is also called Rose Sunday, from the Pope, on this day, carrying a golden rose in his hand, which he exhibits on his way to and from mass. Mothering Sunday, is another name given to this day, from the practice, in Catholic times, of going to the *mother*-church on Mid Lent Sunday.

From the latter, doubtless, arose a custom still prevalent in some parts of England, of children visiting their parents and presenting them with money, trinkets, cakes, or some other present. In other parts the mother gives her children who visit her a meal of furmity, or cakes, with her blessing. Herrick alludes to this custom in Gloucestershire.

I'le to thee a simnell bring
'Gainst thou go'st a *mothering*;
So that when she blesseth thee
Half that blessing thou'lt give me.

17. ST. PATRICK.

The patron saint of Ireland was born in the year 371, in Killpatrick, between Dunbarton and Glasgow, in Scotland. At sixteen he was carried off, with many of

his father's vassals, into slavery, and compelled to keep cattle on the mountains in Ireland, from whence he escaped through the humanity of some sailors. He travelled into Gaul and Italy, and received his apostolical mission to convert the Irish; in which he zealously laboured, and penetrating to the remotest corners of the island, baptized multitudes, ordained clergy to preside over them, instituted monks, gave alms to the poor, made presents to the kings, educated children, founded monasteries, and continued actively employed during forty years. He died at Down in Ulster, in the year 493, at the advanced age of 120.

This day is kept with great hilarity by the Irish in whatever part of the world they may be. For the following slight, but faithful picture of St. Patrick's Day, we are indebted to Mr. Whitty, the author of *Tales of Irish Life*, whose intimate acquaintance with every subject connected with his country deserves to be more duly appreciated than it is:—

“The sons of the *sod* are a singular race, and in nothing more singular than in their attachment to a country where, if you believe themselves, there is nothing but misery. Throughout the civilized world (for Paddy's peregrinations extend so far) Irishmen are found, on each successive seventeenth of March, decorated with ‘Old Erin's native shamrock;’ for, however they differ in creeds or opinion, they rival each other in displaying, on this day, the ‘triple grass,’ the honored badge of their nation. No matter what is their condition, occupation, or rank in life, the shamrock blooms in their hat or bosom, and is as proudly exhibited by the hodman as the chief secretary of state.

Throughout America Irishmen congregate together on this anniversary of their patron saint, renew past associations, recall the memory of those they left behind them, and cheer each other with the hope of one day seeing their native land a place fit for freemen to live in. Here are found proud spirits and high honour, the Emmets, the O'Connors, and the M'Ne vins, the Jacksons, and the Sampsons, demonstrating to the world that Irishmen are capable of appreciating and deserving liberty.

In every nation of the Continent Paddy is seen and dreaded on this day. Frenchmen record, with wonder, many of the strange and eccentric pranks of the Irish Brigade and Irish students; and it was long believed there that the natives of Ireland went mad on Saint Patrick's day.

London, however, displays a more gratifying sight—a blending of all denominations of Irishmen, for the purpose of charity and good feeling. The Catholic and Protestant wear the same undying foliage; and it would be impossible to say which of them is proudest of his country.*

With mingled feelings of religion and melancholy I arose on this morning, placed the shamrock in my hat, and sallied out into the streets. At every step I recognised a countryman; and, as I looked upon his athletic frame, his firm tread, and cheerful countenance, I felt proud in belonging to a nation which deserves to be a nursery of heroes. John Bull is by no means to be despised for either his person or appearance; but he

* On this day, annually, the friends of St. Patrick's Charity-schools dine together at the Freemasons' Tavern, when the funds of the charity are always augmented by liberal donations.

wants that something which indicates character, and which Pat has got in abundance. You would know him, even did he not wear a shamrock; for there is an eccentricity in his walk as well as in his conduct; particularly on Saint Patrick's day.

In London, however, there is not that *nationality* which Dublin displays. There you are aroused, by day-break, with cries of "Green Shamrock!" and, as the shop-keepers do not take down their shutters, it wears the appearance of a holiday. In the evening Paddy gets into his glory, and the shilelagh is not unfrequently put into requisition; but in general all is good humour and merriment. In the country parts *shibbens* are opened on this night, and some of the happiest hours of my life I have spent at these rustic gathering-places. J. B. W.

18. EDWARD, KING OF THE WEST SAXONS; Son of Edgar, King of England, born in the year 962, and ascended the throne in 975. Elfrida, the late king's widow, was opposed to his succession, and whilst hunting in Dorsetshire, he stopt his horse at Corfe Castle, where Elfrida lived, and requested something to drink, which she brought herself and gave him in a seemingly affectionate manner, but whilst the cup was at his lips he was stabbed in the back by order of his treacherous stepmother, through which he died in 979. He was a prince much beloved, and of great piety. This day was first appointed as a festival by Pope Innocent IV. in 1245.

21. ST. BENEDICT.

The founder of the order of Benedictine monks, was born in Norcia in Umbria, in the year 480. He began his studies at Rome, but being disgusted with the world, he resolved to leave it, and went into solitude in the

mountains of Sublacum when scarcely fourteen years old, where, meeting with a monk of some neighbouring community, he received from him the religious habit. He was a man of notorious austerity and piety. It was on Mount Cassino that he founded the first monks, and obliged them to those rules which have since become so popular. He expired, calmly, while in Mayer, in the sixty-third year of his age, in 543.

25. ANNUNCIATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, OR LADY-DAY.

This day celebrates the angels' message to the Virgin Mary, respecting our Saviour. She was probably an only child, and only fifteen years of age when she espoused Joseph. She died in the year 48, at the age of sixty.

In England, before the alteration of the style, our new year began on the 25th of March. Lady-Day is now chiefly known as one of the four days in the year when house rent becomes due.

27. PALM SUNDAY.

This day commemorates our Lord's triumphal entry into Jerusalem. Formerly palm branches and green boughs were distributed on this day, and sprigs of box-wood are still used as a substitute in Catholic countries. This day is the last day in Lent, and the first of Passion Week.

29. 1830. MAJOR RENNELL, F.R.S. DIED, ÆTAT. 88.

Tradition ascribes to this celebrated geographer a Norman extraction. One of the Knights who accompanied William the Conqueror in his descent upon England is believed to have been his ancestor. He was born at Chudleigh, in Devonshire, and at the age of fifteen entered the navy. At the siege of

Pondicherry he gave proof of enterprise and talent. Some sloops of war belonging to the enemy having moored beyond the reach of our guns, in shallow water, he requested of his captain the use of a boat. This, as the night was far advanced, was at first refused, but ultimately granted. Accompanied by only one sailor, Mr. Rennell departed, with what object no one knew. After a brief interval he returned, with the assurance of having ascertained, that as the tide was unusually high, there was sufficient depth of water by which to reach the sloops of the enemy. This information was promptly acted upon, and the result proved completely successful.

At the age of twenty-four Mr. Rennell left the navy, and entering into the army was immediately sent upon active service to India, as an officer of engineers. There he greatly distinguished himself, and was promoted to a Majority. In 1778 he published a Chart of the Bank and Current of Cape Lagullas, which at once ranked him high as a geographer, and procured him the appointment of Surveyor-general of Bengal.

After his return to England, in consequence of the numerous wounds he had received, he assisted Sir W. Jones in his Oriental Collections, and many of the best articles in the Asiatic Researches were from his pen. In 1798 he also assisted Mr. Park in the arrangement of his Travels in Africa.

The following is a complete list of his productions: *A Chart of the Bank and Current of Cape Lagullas*, 1778; *A Bengal Atlas*, 1781; *A Memoir of the Map of Hindostan*, 1782; *A Map of Hindostan*, with a new Memoir, 1788; *Memoirs of the Geography of Africa*, with a Map, 1790; *On the rate of Travelling as performed by Camels, and its application by a Scale to the purposes of Geometry*, 1791; *The Marches of the British Armies in India during 1790 and 1791*; *A Second and Third Memoir on the Geography of Africa*, 1798; *The Geographical System of Herodotus explained*, 1800; *A Corrected Map of India and the Mysore Country*; *A Fourth Memoir on African Geography*; *A Map of Mr. Horneman's Travels for the African Association*; and *Observations on the Topography of Troy*.

This distinguished man died in consequence of a fracture of his thigh, and his remains were very justly deposited in Westminster Abbey.

A contemporary, speaking of Major Rennell, says :—" Germany could boast of Cluverius and Cellarius, and France of her D'Anville, but no eminent geographer had yet adorned this country. Rennell has amply redeemed us from that reproach. To the industry of the former, and to the acuteness of the latter, he added a sagacity which reconciled the most discordant passages of history ; a perseverance which ransacked every source of information ; and a professional tact, which, in analysing the military movements of the ancients, not only facilitated his researches, but stamped his decisions with general conviction of their accuracy. But there was still another quality which more peculiarly marked his writings, and which cannot be too much held up for imitation,—the ingenuous candour with which he states the difficulties he could not vanquish, or acknowledges the happy conjectures of others. Those who have studied his Geography of Herodotus, and followed under his guidance the retreat of the ten thousand, will have felt how much this quality augments the value of his reasonings, and they will confess that, in exciting them to use their own judgment, he doubly contributes to their information. In all his discussions his sole object was the establishment of truth, and not the triumph of victory. Another characteristic of this amiable philosopher was the generous facility with which he imparted his stores of learning in conversation. A memory remarkably tenacious, and so well arranged, as to be equally ready for the reception or for the distribution of knowledge, made him a depository of facts to which few ever applied in vain : adapting himself to the level of all who consulted him, he had the happy art of correcting their errors without hurting their feelings, and of leading them to truth without convicting them of ignorance."

31. MAUNDAY THURSDAY.

This day is called in Latin, *dies Mundati*, the day of command, being the day on which Christ washed the feet of his disciples, This commemoration was long kept up in the monasteries. It was a custom, both in this, and other countries, for the king and queen, and

persons of high estate, and the abbots of religious houses, to perform their maunday—that is, to wash the feet of a certain number of poor people, originally twelve, the number of the apostles.

The kings and queens of England formerly washed the feet of as many persons as they were years old, or had reigned. They afterwards gave them meat, clothing, and a little bag of money. The latter custom is in part still preserved at the palace of St. James's. King James II. was the last monarch who washed the feet of poor people in person. The ceremony was first deputed to the almoner by William III.

In Rome, the Pope still washes the feet of pilgrims, gives the benediction, and performs numerous other rites of this season of church festival. The ceremony is conducted at St. Peter's, in the most grand and imposing manner.

1830. DUKE DE LEVIS DIED.

Son of the Marshal de Levis, one of the most ancient families in France. At the commencement of the French Revolution he was sent as Deputy to the States-General by the nobility of Dijon; but he took no decided part, and though friendly to a moderate reform, he was disgusted with the aspect of the Revolution and left the country. On the establishment of the consular government he returned to France, but lived in retirement, devoted to literary pursuits. In the first promotion of Peers by Louis XVIII. the Duke de Levis was included, and in 1816 he was admitted a member of the French Academy.

He was the author of *Maxims and Reflections*; *Travels of Kanghi, or New Chinese Letters*; *A Continuation of the Four Facardins*; *Recollections and Portraits*; *England at the beginning of the Nineteenth Century*; &c.

A P R I L.

Now infant April joins the Spring,
And views the watery sky,
As youngling linnet tries its wing,
And fears at first to fly ;
With timid step she ventures on,
And hardly dares to smile,
Till blossoms open one by one,
And sunny hours beguile.

Clare.

The fourth month received its name from the Latin, *Aprilis*, of *Aperio*, *I open* ; because the earth in this month begins to open her bosom for the production of vegetables. The Romans dedicated it to Venus, and on the first day the widows and virgins assembled in the temple of Virile Fortune, and disclosing their personal deformities, prayed the goddess to conceal them from their husbands.

“ The Saxons called April by the name of *Oster-Monat*, some thinke of a goddessse called *Goster*, whereof I see no great reason, for it tooke appellation of such a goddessse, (a supposed causer of the Easterly windes,) it seemeth to have bin somewhat by some miswritten, and should rightly be *Oster*, and not *Goster*. The windes, indeed, by antient observation, were found in this moneth most commonly to blow from the East, and East in the

Teutonicke is *Ost*, and *Ost-enl*, which rightly in English is *East-end*, hath that name for the Easterne situation thereof, as to the ships it appeareth which though the narrow seas doe come from the West. So as our name of the feast of *Easter*, may be as much to say as the feast of *Oster*, being yet at this present in *Saxon* called *Ostern*, which cometh from *Oster-monat*, their and our old name of April."—*Verstegan*.

Peacham describes this month as "a young man clothed in green, with a garland of mirtle and hawthorn buds, winged; in one hand primroses and violets, in the other, the sign of *Taurus*!"

1. GOOD FRIDAY.

From the earliest period of Christianity this day has been held as a solemn fast, and when first introduced it was known by the term of *Holy Friday*. Our Saxon ancestors denominated it *Long Friday*, from the length of the offices and fastings on that day; but its appellation of *Good*, applied in reference to the blessed effects which sprang from the event celebrated, is of modern origin, and peculiar to the church of England.

"On this night, in St. Peter's, at Rome, the hundred lamps that burn over the tomb of the apostle are extinguished, and a stupendous cross of light appears suspended from the dome, between the altar and the nave, shedding over the whole edifice a soft lustre delightful to the eye and highly favorable to picturesque representations. This exhibition is supposed to have originated in the sublime imagination of Michael Angelo, and he who beholds it will acknowledge that it is not unworthy of the inventor. The magnitude of the cross

hanging as if self-supported, and like a meteor streaming in the air; the blaze that it pours forth, the mixture of light and shade cast on the pillars, arches, statues and altars; the crowd of spectators placed in all the different attitudes of curiosity, wonder, and devotion; the processions with their banners and crosses gliding successively in silence along the nave and kneeling around the altar; the penitents of all nations and dresses collected in groups; a cardinal occasionally advancing through the crowd, and, as he kneels, humbly bending his head to the pavement; in fine, the pontiff himself, without pomp or pageantry, prostrate before the altar, offering up his adorations in silence, form a scene singularly striking by a happy mixture of tranquillity and animation, of darkness and light, of simplicity and majesty.”*

Buns with crosses upon them are eaten by some persons on this day. It is the most popular symbol of the Roman Catholic religion in England that the Reformation has left.

1. ALL FOOLS’ DAY.

The first of April some do say,
Is set apart for All-Fools’ Day;
But why the people call it so
Nor I, nor they themselves, do know,
But on this day are people sent
On purpose for pure merriment;
And though the day is known before
Yet frequently there is great store
Of these forgetfuls to be found,
Who’re sent to dance Moll Dixon’s round;
And having tried each shop and stall,
And disappointed at them all,

* Eustace’s Tour in Italy.

At last some tell them of their cheat;
Then they return from the pusuit,
And straightway home with shame they run,
And others laugh at what is done.

Poor Robin's Almanack, 1760.

That the custom of making fools on this day, is not unknown to other countries we have sufficient evidence from several writers. Torrens, a Swedish author, in his *Voyage to China*, says, "we set sail on the first of April, and the wind made April fools of us; for we were forced to return before Shagen, and to anchor at Riswopol." And Southey, speaking of Lisbon, says, "On the Sunday and morning preceding Lent, as on the first of April in England, people are privileged here to play the fool. It is thought very jocose to pour water on any person who passes, or throw powder in his face; but to do both, is the perfection of wit."

Of this kind is the practice alluded to by Decker: "The bookeseller ever after, when you passe by, pinnes on your backes the badge of fools, to make you be laught to scorn, or of silly carpers, to make you be pittied."* And Sauval hints at a similar custom on the festival of St. Simon and St. Jude; when he tells us, "simple persons are sent to the Temple to ask for medlars, in order to entrap them, and make sport for the by-standers."

In the North of England, persons thus imposed on are called "April gowks." Zouk, or gowk, is properly a cuckoo, and is used here metaphorically, in vulgar language, for a fool. The cuckoo is, indeed, everywhere a name of contempt. *Gouch*, in the Teutonic,

* Decker's *Seven Deadly Sinnes of London*, 1606.

is rendered *stultus*, a fool, whence came our northern word, a *guke*, or a *gawky*.

In Scotland, upon this day, they have a custom of "hunting the gowk," as it is termed. This is done by sending silly people upon fools' errands, from place to place, by means of a letter, in which is written—

On the first of Aprile

Hunt the gowk another mile.

3. EASTER SUNDAY.

Easter Day is distinguished by its peculiar name, through our Saxon ancestors, who at this season of the year held a great festival in honor of the goddess Eastor, probably the Astarte of the eastern nations. The French call the festival *Paques*, derived from the Greek *pascha*, which is also derived from the Hebrew *pesech*, meaning passover; and whence we have the English word *paschal*, applied to the lamb, which formed part of the evening meal, the last of which our Saviour partook before his death, with his twelve apostles. In Cambridgeshire, the word *pasch* is still in use, and applied to a flower which appears at this time on the Gogmagog hills and its environs. The day is of importance in a civil, as well as in a religious light; for on this day depends the openings of our courts of law, which take place after it, and the festivals of the church are arranged in conformity to it. By the act of parliament on this subject, and the rule in conformity to it, the *Common Prayer Book* says: "Easter Day is always the first Sunday after the full moon, which happens upon, or next after, the twenty-first day of March; and, if the full moon happen upon a Sunday, Easter Day is the Sunday after."

The festival of the Resurrection is one of the grandest of the Catholic church. On Easter Sunday the service

is performed at St. Peter's, and it is then that the church exhibits all its splendour and its forces on a site worthy their display. The spacious piazza of St. Peter, its porticoes, and colonnades, its beautiful fountains, its stupendous façade, glittering in the noon-day sun, become the scene of action. Above its marble walls rise fantastic awnings for the accommodation of the spectators, who at an early hour crowd their elevated seats. The space below is lined with infantry: the light-horse, with their showy dresses, form a line within: the Roman military standards, once the banners of universal conquest, now serve only to deck the pageant, and to flaunt above the gaudy little colors of the Swiss corps. In the centre of all, forming the inner circle, and crowding the steps of the church, are a multitude of common people. The *loggie* above the portico are filled with the cardinals, and in the centre, raised upon men's shoulders, high above all, and reduced almost to a speck by his elevation, appears the Pontiff. He is said to pray, but prays unheard; and when he rises to give the benediction, the act, scarce visible, is awfully announced by the tolling of the great bell of St. Peter's, and the firing of the cannon of St. Angelo. The military ground their arms, and drop on their knees; the cardinals fling down the church's indulgences among the people; drums beat, trumpets sound, the music plays, the troops file off, and the ceremony finishes at night with the illumination of the Vatican, the most beautiful, the most splendid, and the most indescribable of all the spectacles exhibited by Rome to wondering nations.*

* Italy, by Lady Morgan.

3. RICHARD, BISHOP OF CHICHESTER.

Richard, surnamed De Wiche, from the place of his birth in Worcestershire, was born of poor parents, but received his education at Oxford, through the medium of some friends who discovered his early abilities. He afterwards continued his studies at Paris and Bologna, where he continued several years. Returning to England he was nominated to the see of Chichester, and consecrated by the Pope in the year 1245. He died on this day, 1253, and was canonized by Pope Urban IV. in the year 1262.

4. ST. AMBROSE.

One of the most eminent fathers of the church, was born at Arles in France, in the year 333. He became Bishop of Milan, over which diocese he ruled for more than twenty years with great piety and vigilance, giving his money to pious uses. He converted the celebrated St. Augustine to the Christian faith, and at his baptism composed the divine hymn still so well known, called *Te Deum*. He died in 396.

4. EASTER MONDAY.

Every day in this week was formerly observed as a religious festival, sermons being preached and the sacrament being administered. In many places servants were permitted to rest from their usual employments, that they might constantly attend public worship. At that period all public games, shows, and amusements, were prohibited; but now Easter week is a continuance of holydays and idleness.

A picture of the London holyday-maker at this season is thus happily pourtrayed in *The Mirror of the Months* "Now, at last, the Easter week is arrived, and the poor

have, for once in the year, the best of it,—setting all things, but their own sovereign will; at a wise defiance. The journeyman who works on Easter Monday should lose his *caste*, and be sent to the Coventry of Mechanics, wherever that may be. In fact, it cannot happen. On Easter Monday rank changes place, Jobson is as good as Sir John; the ‘rude mechanic’ is ‘monarch of all he surveys’ from the summit of Greenwich-hill, and when he thinks fit to say ‘it is our royal pleasure to be drunk!’ who shall dispute the proposition? Not I, for one. When our English mechanics accuse their betters of oppressing them, the said betters should reverse the old appeal, and refer from Philip sober to Philip drunk; and then nothing more could be said. But *now*, they have no betters, even in their own notion of the matter. And in the name of all that is transitory, envy them not their brief supremacy!—It will be over before the end of the week, and they will be as eager to return to their labour, as they now are to escape from it; for the only thing that an Englishman, whether high or low, cannot endure patiently for a week together is, unmingled amusement. At this time, however, he is determined to try. Accordingly, on Easter Monday all the narrow lanes and blind alleys of our metropolis pour forth their dingy denizens into the suburban fields and villages, in search of the said amusements, which is plentifully provided for them by another class, even less enviable than the one on whose patronage they depend; for of all callings, the most melancholy is that of Purveyor of Pleasure to the poor.

“During the Monday, our determined holyday-maker, as in duty bound, continues, by the aid of a little, or not

a little, artificial stimulus, to be happy in a tolerably exemplary manner. On the Tuesday, he *fancies* himself happy to-day, because he *felt* himself so yesterday. On the Wednesday, he cannot tell what has come to him, but every ten minutes he wishes himself at home, where he never goes but to sleep. On Thursday, he finds out the secret, that he is heartily sick of doing nothing, but is ashamed to confess it; and then, what is the use of going to work, before his money is spent? On Friday he swears that he is a fool for throwing away the greatest part of his quarter's savings without having any thing to show for it, and gets gloriously drunk with the rest to prove his words; passing the pleasantest night of all the week in the watch-house: and on Saturday, after thanking 'his worship' for his good advice, of which he does not remember a word, he comes to the wise determination, that, after all, there is nothing like working all day long in silence, and at night spending his earnings and his breath in beer and politics!—So much for the Easter week of a London holyday-maker."

Among the amusements which attracted immense numbers on this day from the metropolis, was the Epping Stag Hunt. It is now, however, fast falling in decay, in consequence of the motley groupes it brought together, and the many accidents it occasioned. It was, as has been well remarked—"following the hounds at a respectful distance—returning home in the evening with the loss of nothing but your hat, your hunting whip, and your horse, not to mention a portion of your nether person."



Good Lord! to see the riders now
 Thrown off with sudden whirl;
 A score within the whirling brook
 Enjoy'd their "early purl."

A score were sprawling on the grass,
 And beavers fell in showers;
 There was another *Floorer* there
 Besides the Queen of Flowers.

"O dear! O dear!" now might you hear,
 "I've surely broke a bone;"
 "My head is sore," with many more
 Such speeches from the *thrown*.

Hood's Epping Hunt.

The following notice of Easter amusements, in the North of England, occurs in *The Carlisle Patriot*, for April the 17th, 1830:—"According to annual custom from time immemorial, the *Soceries* near this city, were crowded with visitors on Monday and Tuesday, comprising children of a *larger* as well as a *lesser* growth,

of both sexes, and of all ranks and conditions. Monday was unfavorable from the showery state of the weather; but Tuesday was fine, and brought together a vast throng to do honor to the occasion. Pace-eggs were tumbled, foot-balls kicked, rings run, and gymnastics performed,—

“ While many a gambol frolick’d o’er the ground.”

These were kept up amidst glorious feasting with gingerbread, cakes, oranges, and many other dainties, most grateful to the juvenile palate, and with great good-humour until a late hour in the evening. The simple amusements of Easter Monday and Tuesday seem, in fact, to have lost none of their interest with us; for we had the pleasure of surveying the interesting scene, in company with a gentleman who distinctly remembered being one of the mirthful assemblage *seventy-six* years ago, and he did not think there was any falling off, either in number, or gaiety. As to number, however, the increased population of Carlisle, since that distant day, to the extent of three-fourths we believe, ought to turn out a much greater throng, to support the credit of these meetings on that ground. But formerly these sports were, in many places, regarded with much honor. At Newcastle-on-Tyne, the mayor, alderman, and sheriffs, accompanied by a great number of the burgesses, used to walk in procession to the Forth, on Easter Monday, with the mace, sword, and cap of maintenance, carried before them, and to patronize gambols, dancing, and various other amusements, in which they did not consider it beneath them, even to join themselves! “ But the times are changed, and they are changed with them !”

5. 1830. RICHARD CHENEVIX DIED.

This gentleman died at Paris after an illness of a few days. He was a fellow of the Royal Society, and a member of most of the scientific and literary institutions of Europe, to the promotion of which his time and fortune were devoted. In chemistry his name ranks as one of the highest among those who have cultivated the analytical branches of that science; and a volume of plays, written in the style of the writers of the age of Elizabeth, full of poetical beauties, together with many contributions of great interest, on various topics, to the most eminent periodicals of the day, attest the versatility and extent of his talents and acquirements.

10. FIRST SUNDAY AFTER EASTER; OR LOW SUNDAY.

This is called *Low Sunday*, because it is Easter Sunday repeated, with the church service somewhat abridged or *lowered* in the ceremony from the pomp of the festival the Sunday before.

13. 1829. CATHOLIC RELIEF BILL.

This day will ever be held memorable, as being the one on which the Royal assent was given to a measure carrying peace and good will among millions of our fellow creatures.

Mr. T. W. Kelly, the author of *Myrtle Leaves*, has favoured us with two lyrical effusions from a MS. volume entitled *Songs of Ireland*, written in 1827. They may not be thought inappropriately introduced on a day that must ever be held the dearest to Irishmen.

IRISH MELODY.

'Tis said, in some wild, lonely vale
Where flows the Shannon's stately tide,
When Twilight spreads her shadows pale,
Lorn Erin roams its wave beside;

And, there, to mortal eye unseen,
 She weeps o'er many a broken plight,
 Which Time, though ages roll'd between,
 But half recorded in his flight.

And oft within some mould'ring tow'r
 Where echoing flaps the night-bat's wing,
 Subdued by grief, she waits the hour,
 That to her breast may balsam bring;
 And with that thought bright hopes illume
 At intervals her troubled mind,
 And shed a radiance o'er her gloom,
 But leave still deeper shades behind.

E'en now, when Twilight's veils invest
 The column'd arch, the turret high,
 She weeps o'er wrongs still unredress'd,
 While Time, regardless passes by!
 With sad and watchful eye she strays
 Through ruin'd aisles and ivied halls,
 While, bright events of other days,
 Too faithful memory recalls.

THE IRISH MINSTREL.

Ah! why does yon bard hide his face in his vest?
 Why unpledg'd from his lip pass the goblet aside?
 Why mute is his harp that so oft hath express'd,
 In the noblest of lays, Erin's glory and pride?
 Mirth and music resound thro' the banquetting hall,
 Where the Monarch unbends from his council and care,
 The guests are his vassals, but sad is their thrall!
 Wonder not then the bard feels the pang of despair!*

* "Here the King, Henry the Third, in the most obliging manner, sumptuously entertained his vassals. Delighted with the vain parade, they shamefully forgot that they were sacrificing to unmanly fear, and to an inglorious gratification, all regard to the liberty and the independence of their country."—*Crawford's Hist. of Ireland*. Letter xxxv.

Oh! how can the Minstrel be cheerful and gay,
 And the festive-board gladden with music and song?
 Can his harp breathe in triumph? and, oh! can his lay
 Tell to whom *now* the homes of his fathers belong?
 No—his heart is depress'd, on his brows hang a gloom,
 Those brows that so oft have by laurels been crown'd,
 A voice has gone forth from the Pontiff of Rome,*
 And Erin's poor children in fetters are bound!

Ah, once—and once only, his dark, pensive eyes
 He raised to glance o'er the banquet with shame,
 To scowl at the chiefs of his land, and despise
 The many who bow to the conqueror's name;
 Who, quaffing with foes, soon forgot the red stain
 Which, stream'd from their veins, when the war-lion roar'd,
 Who, had they but stood o'er the heaps of the slain,
 Might still have been lords of their land and their sword!

Oh! if his harp wake, 'twill but wake to enquire
 Why the chiefs who had rallied round Liberty's shrine,
 Fell not where the noblest and best to expire
 Rush'd, rather than pledge their invaders in wine;
 'Twill tell them tho' poison their cups might contain,
 No worse could to him, or his country befall,
 And rather the very last drop would he drain,
 Than one string of his lyre should resound in that hall!

19. ALPHEGE.

St. Alphege, or Elphege, was born in England, and brought up at the monastery of Deerhurst, in Gloucestershire. He afterwards built himself a lonely cell in the abbey of Bath, from which he was called by St. Dunstan, who made him Bishop of Winchester, and twelve years after he became Archbishop of Canterbury. On the

* "The Pope was so highly pleased with the conduct of Henry, that he assigned the Kingdom of Ireland to him and to his heirs; and, by an authority apostolic, constituted them kingsthereof forever."—*Crawford's Hist. of Ireland. Letter xxxv.*

storming of that city by the Danes, St. Alphege endeavoured to allay their fury, but they burnt his cathedral, decimated his monks, and carrying the archbishop to Greenwich, there slew him on this day, in the year 1012.

23. ST. GEORGE.

Of the patron Saint of England very little is known with certainty. He is said to have been born in Cappadocia, of Christian parents: that having embraced the profession of a soldier, he was made a tribune or colonel in the army. He complained to the Emperor Dioclesian of his severity and bloody edicts, for which he was immediately cast into prison, and soon afterwards beheaded.

Mr. Galt, in his *Life of Byron*, has the following passage: "Gibbon says, that St. George was no other than the Bishop of Cappadocia, a personage of very un-ecclesiastical habits, and expresses some degree of surprise that such a person should ever have been sanctified in the calendar. But the whole story of this deliverer of the Princess of Egypt, is an allegory of the sufferings of the church, which is typified as the daughter of Egypt, driven into the wilderness, and exposed to destruction by the dragon, the ancient emblem, over all the East, of imperial power. The Bishop of Cappadocia manfully withstood the attempts of the emperor, and ultimately succeeded in procuring an imperial recognition of the church in Egypt. We have adverted to this, merely to shew the devices in which the legends of the church were sometimes embodied; and the illuminated missals,—even the mass-books, in the early stages of printing,—abundantly prove, and illustrate the opinions expressed."

25. ST. MARK.

This evangelist and martyr was a Jew, of the tribe of Levi, and is supposed to have been indebted to the apostle Peter for his conversion to Christianity. Being sent by St. Peter into Egypt, he, by his mildness of manner, and force of argument, succeeded in converting a great number of the natives. Whilst engaged in the duties of his priesthood at Alexandria, a great portion of the populace broke in upon him, and dragged him out of the church, through the streets of the city, and along the rugged coast, till he expired.

25. 1776. DUCHESS OF GLOUCESTER BORN.

The Princess Mary was married to her cousin, William Frederick, Duke of Gloucester, on the 22nd of July, 1816.



St. George, St. Andrew, St. Patrick, and St. David.

M A Y.

Now the bright morning star, day's harbinger,
Comes dancing from the east, and leads with her
The flowery May, who from her green lap throws
The yellow cowslip, and the pale primrose.

Hail, bounteous May! that dost inspire
Mirth, and youth, and warm desire;
Woods and groves are of thy dressing,
Hill and dale both boast thy blessing!
Thus we salute thee with our early song,
And welcome thee, and wish thee long.

Milton.

THIS month, according to some, received its name from Maia, the brightest of the Pleiades, fabled to have been the daughter of Atlas, the supporter of the world, and Pleione, a sea-nymph. Others ascribe its name to Maia, the mother of Mercury, to whom the Romans offered sacrifice. Its most probable origin, however, is that it was called Maius, by Romulus, in honor of the senators and nobles of Rome, who were named Majores, or elders; as the following was called June, in compliment to the *Juniors*, who served him in the wars.

Of the Saxons, Verstegan says: "the pleasant moneth of May, they termed *tri milki*, because in that moneth they began to milke their kine three times in the day."

The zodaical sign of this month is Gemini, or the twins, which we may presume is indicative of the fruit-

fulness of the season at this period. Peacham says : " May must be drawn with a sweet and amiable countenance, clad in a robe of white and green, embroidered with daffodilles, hawthorn, blew-bottels ; upon his head a garland of white, damask, and red roses ; in one hand a lute, upon the fore-finger of the other a nightingale, with the sign Gemini."

1. MAY-DAY.

This period was formerly dedicated to one of the most splendid and pleasing of our festal rites. The observance of May-day was a custom which, until the close of the reign of James the First, attracted the attention of the royal and the noble, as of the vulgar class. Henry the Eighth, Elizabeth, and James, patronized and partook of its ceremonies ; and during this extended era, there was scarcely a village in the kingdom but what had a May-pole, with its appropriate games and dances.

The origin of these festivities has been attributed to three different sources, Classic, Celtic, and Gothic. The first appears to establish the best claim to the parentage of our May-day rites, as a relique of the *Roman Floralia*, which were celebrated on the last four days of April, and on the first day of May, in honor of the goddess Flora, and were accompanied with dancing, music, the wearing of garlands, strewing of flowers, &c. The *Bellein*, or rural sacrifice of the Highlanders on this day, as described by Pennant and Dr. Jamieson, seems to have arisen from a different motive, and to have been instituted for the purpose of propitiating the various noxious animals which might injure or destroy their flocks and herds. The Gothic anniversary on May-day makes a

nearer approach to the general purpose of the *Floralia*, and was intended as a thanksgiving to the sun; and if not for the return of flowers, fruit, and grain, yet for the introduction of a better season for fishing and hunting.

On May-day and its festivities Mr. Stringer has favored us with the following reflections:—

“What an open-hearted, jovial crew our forefathers must have been, with their holidays, and sparkling cups, and mighty wassail-bowls! It may be fanciful, but I cannot help half envying them. I love holidays, and heartily deplore their diminution and decline. To those who are doomed to work and labour, they are like green fertile spots of verdure amid a sandy desert; and they serve to diversify the existence of those who can be idle. To the young they are ‘right merry days,’ bringing fun, frolic, and hilarity along with them, nor are they unpleasant to the aged, for they make them forget their pains, and remind them of many agreeable scenes. Our ancestors, too, knew how to make the most of their annual festivals. They celebrated them with becoming spirit and hospitality, forgetting past toils, and thinking only of present happiness. But alas! the hospitality is all but extinguished, and the festivals in most places have gradually sunk into oblivion, few of them now remaining, and those few poorly and *mawkishly* distinguished from other days. Money is become the sole principle of action: unless it puts things in motion, all is dull, rapid, and lifeless.

“Of all the neglected holidays in the year, however, I regret none more than the first of May. It was once a most exquisite treat for the peasants, and no day was looked forward to with livelier sensations of pleasure. Every village could then boast its May-pole, and that which possessed the loftiest was accounted the most lucky; the lads and lasses vied with each other in collecting flowers, and weaving them into garlands and fantastic ornaments, to adorn themselves, and decorate the bower of their lovely queen; and she, in return, distributed rewards to the victors in the different rural games and exercises. They danced upon the ‘velvet green’ to the sounds of a fiddle, *most likely cracked*; but they were neither disposed, nor refined

enough, to criticise, and enjoyment was their only motto. Besides, the shouts of applause, the circling jokes, the loud laughter, and the half-suppressed titter, formed, in unison with the surrounding echoes, a melody far richer than any regular and measured notes—for it was spontaneous and unbought, and—

“ There’s music in that merry voice,
The voice of peasants wild and high,
That bids the listener’s soul rejoice,
And share in all their revelry.”

“ Such were some of their innocent amusements; but how few relics of even these are now in use. In some parts of the country the villagers spread the steps before their doors with daisies and other simple flowers; and in town the chimney-sweeps bedeck themselves with ribands, and with Jack-in-the-green, have their three days’ sport, such as it is.



Their antics are merely a poor delusion, and do not emanate from the soul—they are borrowed, and, like the ‘rage and passion’ of a player, are put on to assist in gaining them a livelihood. Not so the jollity and diversions of our ancestors—

“ They sprung from hearts with feeling warm,
Each voice a voice of happiness.”

Why are their descendants become so degenerate? Why are these festivities disregarded? Why—but from the undue growth of pride. Actuated by its influence, most of those people, who should be the first to promote them, consider them absurd, and think those who are *sticklers* for them romantic and vulgar. I care not if I am thought so. What could be more harmless than the diversions attending this genial day? What can be more enlivening than the very season itself? During the variable month of April, sunshine is so often obscured by cloudy storms, that we are never safe, and winter is so blended with spring, that we can scarcely distinguish betwixt them. But now the trees put forth their blossoms, the hawthorn bushes are embellished with a white covering, and the lowlier, though more beauteous flowers, shoot up from the ground. Nor is this revival confined to the vegetable kingdom, for all nature seems reanimated. Shall man, then, the noblest work of his Creator, continue unchanged and unrefreshed? Shall he express no rapture at the return of so charming a time? Oh! forbid it, ye who can. Throw off the hateful shackles of pride, at least for awhile, and many a smiling face will thank you, many a pleasing association will be afterwards engendered in your minds. Would I could again see the May-pole raise itself proudly aloft! Would I could again see a dance around one! I once had that delightful prospect; it was in a quiet snug village, surrounded by mountains, which seemed to have preserved it from the contamination of fashion. The person who owned the greatest part of it, and whom I was proud to call my friend (but he, alas! is now no more), did not scorn to direct, and join in, his tenants' amusements, nor did his daughter disdain to officiate as the 'Queen of May.' He encouraged and kept up the festival, as lords of manors should do. A great deal of good might thus be done; respect and veneration for their masters would be excited in the breasts of the peasants, and, on retrospection, pleasure would gladden the hearts of both parties. I know that, owing to the progress of civilization and refinement, they cannot be fully revived; yet such customs as these, which formerly accompanied the keeping of this day, are, as a living writer has beautifully

expressed himself, 'innocent links with our ancestors, and memorials, at once of them, and preservers of us.' We prize their pictures, we hoard up many things they have left behind them; let us also endeavour to revive such of their pastimes as may be made to accord with the age. Many, too many, of the noblest of the land, are not ashamed to associate with sharpers and gamblers. Surely they need not refuse to do so with rustics on so sweet, so simple a holiday as May-day. The sight of joy produced by their generosity will amply repay them, and each will be ready to exclaim with the poet:—

“There's an o'erflowing tide of gladness
To-night, in all I hear and see;
A moment's passing dream of madness,
The heart's delicious jubilee.”

1. ST. PHILIP AND ST. JAMES THE LESS.

St. Philip was born at Bethsaida, a small fishing town in Galilee. He was married, and had several daughters, when he was called by our Saviour to follow him. After the ascension, St. Philip preached the Gospel in Upper Asia and Phrygia. At Hieropolis, now called Aleppo, the people worshipped an enormous serpent, which St. Peter put to death, and preached against the superstitious idolatry. For this the priests of the serpent threw him into prison and afterwards martyred him. It is supposed he was stoned to death upon a cross.

St. James the Less, or, as he was otherwise called, St. James the Just, was the son of Cleophas, and received the title of Less from having been called to the apostleship after St. James, the brother of John the Evangelist. He was the first bishop of Jerusalem, and continued in the strenuous discharge of his duties until the ninety-fourth year of his age, when he was summoned before the rulers of the Jews, who endeavoured to convert him from his faith; failing in which, they threw him from the bat-

lements of the temple. The fall, however, did not kill him, and raising himself upon his knees he prayed for his persecutors, when one of them instantly struck him with a club, and deprived him of life in the year 62.

3. INVENTION OF THE CROSS.

St. Helena, the mother of Constantine the Great, undertook a journey into Palestine in 326, for the purpose of visiting the holy places there. On her arrival at Jerusalem, she was inspired with a great desire of finding the identical cross on which Christ had suffered. The pious empress therefore ordered the profane buildings to be pulled down, and, on digging to a great depth, they discovered three crosses; not knowing which was the cross of our Saviour, the holy bishop Macarius, says Butler, suggested to the empress to cause the three crosses to be carried to a lady who was extremely ill. The crosses were singly applied to the patient, who perfectly recovered by the touch of one, the other two having been tried without effect. This festival was originally kept on the 14th of September, but was removed to this day in the eighth century, as it is supposed that the cross was found about this period, or early in the spring.

3. 1830. SIR ROBERT PEEL DIED, ÆTAT. 80.

He was born at Peel's Cross, a small estate belonging to his father, near Lancaster, on the 25th of April, 1750. It is said that very early in life he had a presentment that he should become the founder of a noble family. His father brought up his sons to the different branches of the cotton trade, and Robert, emulating the fame of the well-known Sir Richard Arkwright, eagerly devoted himself to explore the powers of mechanical combinations, particularly when they could be converted to the use of his own manufacture. At the age of twenty-three, he embarked in partnership with Mr. Yates, in an

extensive cotton factory at Bury in Lancashire ; and, in 1783, married Mr. Yates's daughter, then little more than seventeen. In 1790, he was returned to parliament for Tamworth ; and to such opulence had the firm of Messrs. Peel and Yates risen, that in the year 1797 they gave £10,000 to the voluntary subscriptions for carrying on the war. In 1790 Sir Robert Peel was created a baronet by patent. So rapidly did his business increase, and so extensive had it become, that in 1803 he employed upwards of fifteen thousand persons, and paid annually to the Excise-office, on printed goods alone, upwards of £40,000. He was exceedingly attentive to the personal comfort of his workmen, and the health of the children employed in his factories ; and, that other manufactories might be led to follow his example, introduced a bill into parliament, " To ameliorate the condition of the apprentices in the cotton and woollen trades."

Sir Robert Peel bore a most estimable character, and closed his career at a ripe old age, ennobled by a life of integrity and consistency. The baronetcy descended to his son, the Secretary of State for the Home Department.

5. 1821. NAPOLEON BONAPARTE DIED. LINES TO NAPOLEON.

From the Album at the Great St. Bernard in the Alps.

Upon these snows the Despot trod,
The less than man, the would-be God !
Enough ; let scornful history tell,
Or how he rose, or how he fell :
How with the shipwreck sinks the surge,
What fire consumes the gory scourge,
What more than man's concentrated hate,
Pursues the murderer to his fate.
Enough ;—here trod the homicide,
Here roll'd his legions brazen tide ;
Upon this mount the thunder-cloud
Shook o'er the vales the fiery shroud,
Rush'd on the pale Italian's throne,
And blazed, till prince and priest were gone.

Still onward swept thy sanguine tide,
Till blood with blood was purified ;
Till Europe own'd his mightier will,
Who bids the ocean's wrath be still.
Then came at last, thy judgment-hour,
Burst on thy march the icy shower,
Against the banner and the mail
Uprose the blast, uprore the hail,
Till all was done and thou a slave,—
A den thy realm, thy throne a grave !

6. ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST, ANTE P. L.

St. John the Evangelist, the favourite disciple of Jesus, and messenger of glad tidings, was the son of Zebedee and Salome, and born in Galilee. After the death of the Virgin Mary, in whose house, at Jerusalem, St. John resided, he travelled into Asia Minor to propagate the Gospel, and is supposed to have been the founder of the seven churches mentioned in the Apocalypse. While preaching at Ephesus he was arrested and carried to Rome, where he was condemned for the doctrines he had promulgated, and thrown into a cauldron of boiling oil, from which it is said he was miraculously preserved, and came out alive. This event took place before the gate called *Portam Latinam*, which is the reason of the abbreviation *Ante P. L.* following his name on this day. He was afterwards banished to the isle of Patmos, where he wrote his book of *Revelations*; but, being recalled by the Emperor Nero, he returned to Ephesus and compiled his three *Epistles*. A few years before his death he wrote his *Gospel*, and died in the reign of Trajan, about ninety years of age.

8. ROGATION SUNDAY.

The fifth Sunday after Easter. The three following days are called Rogation Days; the word being derived

from the Latin *rogare*, to beseech. On these four days extraordinary prayers and supplications are made, as a preparation for the devout observance of our Saviour's Ascension on the following day, Holy Thursday. This festival was first appointed by Mamertus, Bishop of Vienna, in the year 469.

HYMN FOR SABBATH MORNING.

BY THE ETTRICK SHEPHERD.

I love, O Lord! this holy day,
In mercy sent to me,—
A day the youthful heart to sway
With thankfulness to thee.
On it this world at first was made
By thy creative might,
The ample heavens above it spread,
The day formed, and the night.

This day the earth arose from night
With spirit unendued;
A second time to glorious light
It rose by grace renewed.
In shadowed and in doubtful faith,
Of life we groped the way;
But Jesus burst the bonds of death,
And darkness fled away.

O, blessed day! sent from above,
Despondence to control—
The beacon of redeeming love,
The rainbow of the soul!
For the return of this, thy day,
O Lord! I bless thy name;
Lead me unto thy house to pray,
With heart in praying frame.

And never may this blessed day
Dawn o'er the eastern sea,
On which I do not kneel and pray
With grateful heart to thee!

Father of Life, do thou approve,
And my Redeemer dear,
And Spirit of Grace, bow down in love,
A simple child to hear!

Juvenile Forget-Me Not, 1831.

**11. 1830. FREDERICK ALBERT WINSOR DIED,
ÆTAT. 67.**

The founder of the Gas-Light and Coke Company in London, and the first Gas Company established in Paris. In 1803 he first publicly demonstrated, at the Lyceum in the Strand, the use to which his discovery of gas-lighting might be applied. Many, even of high scientific reputation, then denied its feasibility. He afterwards, on the King's birth-day in 1807, lighted with gas the walls of Carlton-house Gardens, in St. James's Park; and during 1809 and 1810, one side of Pall Mall from the house he then occupied in that street. His house was for many years openly shown, fitted up with gas-lights throughout, to exhibit to the legislature and the public the practicability of his plans.

His memorial to the King for a charter, and the evidence taken before Parliament, and before the Privy Council, bear testimony to the indefatigable and unremitting zeal with which he persevered, until he overcame the obstacles which prejudice had raised against his efforts, and which threatened to prevent the general adoption of his discoveries and improvements.

In 1812, however, a charter of incorporation for a Gas Light and Coke Company was obtained, and success crowned his labours; but his mind having been wholly possessed with the prosecution of an object of such importance, he was too regardless of his own pecuniary interests, and omitted to retain a legal power over the advantages which resulted from his exertions; he unfortunately trusted too much for his reward to the honour of the parties with whom he was engaged.

In 1815 he extended to France the advantages which had attended his efforts in England. There, too, he was the first to establish a company, and erect gas-works; but rival interests created other companies, in defiance of patent privileges; these

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associations, with large capitals, undermined his interests, and he again gave fortunes to others which ought to have been his own reward.

12. ASCENSION DAY, OR HOLY THURSDAY.

This day always falls on the Thursday but one before Whitsuntide. It has been set apart from the earliest period to commemorate the ascension of our Saviour into Heaven.

Queen Elizabeth made a regulation, that the people should on this day, with the curate and principal parishioners, walk in procession, to define and perpetuate the memory of the boundaries of the parishes : and that appropriate prayers should be offered up at all convenient places, giving thanks to God for the increase and abundance of his blessings.

The origin of a Venetian custom on this day has been thus given by a late intelligent traveller :

“ All the world has heard of the annual ceremony of the Doge wedding the sea ; few, however, know any thing of its origin and circumstances. In the year 997, the Venetians subdued the people of Narenta ; a city on the other side of the Adriatic, inhabited by pirates, not much worse perhaps than themselves, but whom they regarded with a jealous eye. The fleet which accomplished this conquest, had sailed from Venice on the day of the *Ascension*, and that day was afterwards commemorated every year in some simple and rude way. Nearly two hundred years after this, the Pope Alexander III., persecuted by the Emperor Barbarossa, fled for shelter to the inaccessible city ; and the Venetians having effected a reconciliation between these two great personages, saw the emperor, who personally attended on the occasion, seek in their *basilica* of St. Marco an absolution at the hands of the fugitive pontiff. The latter evinced his gratitude to his protectors in a characteristic manner, by conferring on them the investiture of the Adriatic ; and the ceremony took place on the day of the com-

memoration just mentioned. The gift of a ring is, it seems, symbolical of an investiture, but it is likewise a symbol of marriage; whence the idea of the Doge espousing the sea, and the custom for him to pronounce the following emphatic words while consigning that feudal or nuptial ring to the waves: *Mare! noi ti sposiamo in segno del nostro vero e perpetuo Dominio!*—The boat in which the Doge used to go out to sea for the ceremony was not at first that gaudy machine called *il Bucentoro*; for the order of the senate for its construction was only given in the beginning of the fourteenth century, and ran thus: *Quod fabricetur navilium ducentorum hominum*; and it appears that *Ducentorum* in course of time became by corruption *Bucentoro*. This vessel had three decks, each 100-feet long by 22, and was set in motion by 168 rowers on the lower deck, besides a number of towing barges: the second deck was most gorgeously fitted up with crimson velvet and gold, allegorical statues, gilt basso-relievos and trophies, presenting a heterogeneous assemblage of heathen gods and goddesses, with canonized saints and madonnas. All that was great at Venice and high in dignity attended on the occasion; and the Doge,

‘ His high throne under state
Of richest texture spread, at the upper end
Was placed!’

The venerable bridegroom of the Adriatic, when all was ready, and while the Pope’s legate or a prelate, his representative, poured a libation of holy water into the sea, rose, and with great solemnity dropped his wedding-ring on the consecrated wave! All the foreign ministers, those even of maritime powers, such as the ambassador of England, witnessed the scene; yet it seems, never entered their protest against a union of which undoubtedly they must have felt very jealous*.”

19. ST. DUNSTAN.

He was born at Glastonbury in the year 925, and is said to have been related to King Athelston. He was a man of very considerable abilities, and King Edgar

* Travels in Italy and Sicily, by M. Simond.

promoted him to the see of Worcester, and afterwards to that of London. In 959 the pope confirmed his appointment as Archbishop of Canterbury, and made him his legate. He died in 988, in his sixty-fourth year.

22. WHIT-SUNDAY.

The great festival of Whitsuntide is celebrated seven weeks after Easter, to commemorate the descent of the Holy Ghost on the Apostles after the ascension of our Saviour.

In the ancient church it was the custom at this season to baptize, and those persons who were about to receive this rite were expected to appear in *white* garments, hence the derivation of Whit-Sunday.

22. 1770. PRINCESS OF HOMBURG BORN.

Elizabeth, Princess of Homburg, sister to his Majesty, King William IV., was married April 7, 1818, to Frederick Joseph Louis, Landgrave of Hesse Homburg, who died April 2, 1829, in his sixty-first year.

23. WHIT-MONDAY.

This and the following day were formerly festivals, for the same reason as Monday and Tuesday in Easter-week. Their religious character, however, is now almost obsolete, and they are chiefly observed as holidays among the lower classes.

26. ST. AUGUSTIN, OR AUSTIN.

The first Archbishop of Canterbury. He was sent with other missionaries by Gregory the Great to preach the Gospel in this island. He landed on the east side of Kent in 596, and converted Ethelbert, the powerful King of Kent, and many of his subjects. After a life zealously devoted to the cause of Christianity, he died about the year 607, but the precise period is unknown.

27. VENERABLE BEDE.

This great prodigy of learning was born at Yarrow, in Northumberland, in the year 672. He obtained the title of Venerable, for his unaffected piety and profound learning, for he wrote on most of the branches of knowledge then cultivated in Europe. His writings have been collected and printed in eight folio volumes. He died in the year 735.

29. TRINITY-SUNDAY.

The sabbath following Whitsuntide. It is a festival of the church in adoration of the union of Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. It was first commemorated about the year 920, but was not formally admitted into the Romish church till the fourteenth century.

It is still a custom of ancient usage for the judges and great law-officers of the crown, together with the lord-mayor, aldermen, and common-council, to attend divine service at St. Paul's Cathedral, and hear a sermon, which is always preached there on this day by the lord-mayor's chaplain.

29. 1660. KING CHARLES II. RESTORED.

This day is the anniversary of the King's entry into London, and re-establishment of royalty, which had been suspended from the death of his father. The vulgar custom of wearing oak-leaves on this day, is in commemoration of the shelter afforded to Charles by an oak while making his escape from England, after his defeat at Worcester, by Cromwell.

**29. 1830. ROBERT HAMILTON, M.D. DIED,
ÆTAT. 82.**

Dr. Hamilton, though descended from a Scottish family, was born at Coleraine in Ireland in 1748. He was educated

for the medical profession at the University of Edinburgh, and in 1780 entered the army as a regimental surgeon; from which, however, he retired in 1784, and settled at Ipswich as a physician. In 1795 he was totally deprived of sight through a rheumatic affection, when in the enjoyment of an extensive practice. He was a member of the College of Physicians and of the Medical Societies of London and Edinburgh. He was the author of several professional works which evince the extent of his abilities. His *Duties of a Regimental Surgeon Considered*, in 2 Volumes, is a fund of valuable information on an important subject.

30. 1640. SIR PETER PAUL RUBENS DIED,

ÆTAT. 63.

He was the most eminent of the Flemish school of painters, of whom Sir Joshua Reynolds said: "that those who cannot see the extraordinary merit of this great painter, either have a narrow conception of the variety of art, or are led away by the affectation of approving nothing but what comes from the Italian school."

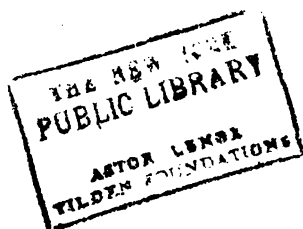
APOSTROPHE TO PAINTING.

BY SIR MARTIN ARCHER SHEE, P. R. A.

Bless'd be the skill which thus enshrines the great,
 And rescues virtue from oblivious fate!
 Which seems to fix the falling stars of mind,
 And still preserve their lustre to mankind!
 Immortal art! whose touch embalms the brave,
 Discomforts death, and triumphs o'er the grave!
 In thee our heroes live—our beauties bloom,
 Defy decay, and breathe beyond the tomb!
 Mirror divine! which gives the soul to view,
 Reflects the image, and retains it too!
 Recals to friendship's eye the fading face,
 Revives each look, and rivals every grace.
 In thee the banish'd lover finds relief,
 His bliss in absence, and his balm in grief.
 Affection, grateful, owns thy sacred pow'r,
 The father feels thee in affliction's hour;



- *Rubens, his Wife & Child.*



When catching life ere some lov'd cherub flies,
To take its angel station in the skies,
The portrait soothes the loss it can't repair,
And sheds a comfort—even in despair.
How bursts the flood of sorrow past control !
What sense of anguish rushes o'er the soul !
When turning from the last sad rite that gave
His heart's best joy for ever to the grave,
The widow'd husband sees his sainted wife,
In picture warm, and smiling as in life :
Yet tho' 'tis madness on that form to dwell,
Now cold and mould'ring in its clammy cell ;
Tho' each soft trait that seems immortal there,
But deeper strikes the dagger of despair ;
Say—if for worlds he would the gift forego,
That mocks his eye, and bids the current flow :
No—while he gazes with convulsive thrill,
And weeps and wonders at the semblance still,
He breathes a blessing on the pencil's aid,
That half restores the substance in the shade.



J U N E.

Copious dispenser of delight, bright June,
All hail! thy meadows smile with flowery pride,
Shed from thy lavish hand; the garden blooms,
Hills lift their verdent heads, and Nature joys,
To long lost honours, and to health restored.

Bidlake.

OVID was of opinion that the name of the sixth month was derived from Juno, in honor of whom a festival was celebrated at the beginning of the month. Other opinions were that it was christened after Junius Brutus, who expelled the King of Rome, and settled the government upon the people, or that it was named in honor of the youth of Rome, *in honorem Juniolem*. The Romans placed this month under the protection of Mercury.

The Saxons, according to Verstegan, called June "*weyd-monat*, because their beasts did then weyd in the meddowes, that is to say, goe to feed there, and hereof a meddow is also, in the *Teutonicke*, called a *weyd*; and of *weyd* we yet retain one word *wade*, which we understand of going to thorow watry places, such as meddowes are wont to be."

Cancer, or the crab, is the zodaical sign of this month, which Peacham thus describes: "June is clothed in a mantle of dark grasse green, upon his head a garland of

bents, king-cups, and maiden's hair; in his left hand an angel (eagle); in his right, the sign Cancer; upon his arm, a basket of the fruits of this season."

1. NICOMEDE.

He was a scholar of St. Peter's, and visited the Apostles and martyrs when in adversity or in prison. He also exhorted the wavering converts, and confirmed the faithful, for which he was arrested during the persecution of Domitian, and beaten to death with leaden plummets.

3. CORPUS CHRISTI.

This festival, *the body of Christ*, was appointed to celebrate the blessings conferred upon mankind by the Holy Sacrament of the Eucharist, and always falls on the Thursday after Trinity Sunday. It is a festival of great solemnity in the Catholic church, beginning on Trinity Sunday, and ending on the Sunday following.

Garlands and pageants representing the history of our Saviour used to be hung about on this day.

5. ST. BONIFACE.

Winfred, afterwards called Boniface, was born at Crediton in Devonshire, about the year 680. He was educated in a Benedictine monastery at Exeter, sent to Friesland as a missionary, became archbishop of Mentz and primate of Germany and Belgium, and obtained the appellation of the apostle of the Germans. Having spent his life in acts of piety, he was murdered in East Friesland by the peasantry, while holding a confirmation on this day in 755.

5. 1771. DUKE OF CUMBERLAND BORN.

The eldest brother of his Majesty William IV., married May 29, 1815, to Frederica Sophia Carolina,

daughter of the Duke of Mecklenburg Strelitz, and widow of Frederick William, Prince of Salms Braunfels, born March 2, 1788. They have one son, Prince George Frederick, born May 27, 1819.

11. ST. BARNABAS.

A descendant of the tribe of Levi, born at Cyprus, and, after his conversion, a coadjutor with the Apostle Paul for several years. After suffering many torments he was stoned to death by the Jews.

St. Barnaby's Day was anciently a great feast in England. The almost nightless day of the solstitial season, already begun, was and is still sung in the following old popular distich :

Barnaby bright, Barnaby bright,
The longest day and the shortest night.

This was literally the longest day according to the old style a century and more ago, and now there is very little difference in the length, being so near the summer solstice.

Great bonfires used to be lighted this evening, as well as on that of St. John the Baptist. Garlands of roses, of lavender, of rosemary, and of woodroof, used to be worn, and to decorate the churches on St. Barnabas' Day, as we find by many old entries and church books.

17. ST. ALBAN.

The first Christian martyr in England, was born at Verulam in Hertfordshire, since called St. Alban's, in honor of the Saint. He went to Rome and served seven years in the army of Dioclesian. Being converted to Christianity by a monk, he preached the Gospel, and suffered martyrdom in the year 303, during the dreadful persecution of Dioclesian.

18. 1814. BATTLE OF WATERLOO.

THE TRUMPET'S VOICE.

BY G. R. CARTER.

I have sung the hymn of triumph
Where banners flash'd like fire,
And awak'd the mountain-echoes
Like a wild enchanted lyre.

In the earthquake-shock of battle
Mine has been the startling cry ;
Like a storm when winds are sweeping
Thro' the dark and starless sky.

Where plumes and spears are scatter'd,
And warrior chiefs deplor'd,
I have sigh'd in gentle music
To the clashing of the sword.

And mine has been the requiem
Where the youthful hero fell ;
When, upon the turf, he whisper'd
His saddest last farewell.

I have stream'd into the valley
With the violet's vernal breath ;
And as maidens danc'd at festal
They have heard my note of death.

There are fifty thousand soldiers
Arm'd with glaives and lances strong,
To o'erwhelm the splendid city
As my spirit bursts in song !

I have music for the bridal,
I have thunder for the fight,
I have breath to peal a welcome
When gentle lips unite.

Like the murmurs of a river,
Like the storm-hymns of the sea,
I mingle with the pæan,
And the shout of victory !

20. TRANSLATION OF EDWARD KING OF THE WEST SAXONS.

This day celebrates the translation or removal of the body of Edward the martyr, three years after its interment, from the church of Wareham to the minster at Salisbury. (See page 66).

21. LONGEST DAY.

This day, in London, is 16h. 13m. 5s., allowing 9m. 16s. for refraction.

STANZAS WRITTEN ON A SUN DIAL IN GAINSFORD CHURCH PORCH.

BY W. LAMB.

Mortal, while the sunny beam
Tells thee here how Time is gliding,
Haste the moments to redeem,
For eternity providing.

Winters pass, and Springs renew,
In maturity advancing ;
Youth to pleasure sighs adieu,
In the fields of childhood dancing.

Manhood sinks to hoary age,
And a night that has no morning ;
O let wisdom now engage,
Hear her dictates, and take warning.

Wisely still the moments use,
Man is every moment dying ;
Whilst this tablet you peruse,
O remember Time is flying.

24. ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST, AND MIDSUMMER DAY.

St. John, the son of Zacharias and the forerunner of our Saviour, was born in the year of the world 4004: about six months before Jesus. He chiefly resided in the wilderness, in order to avoid the persecutions of

Herod. At the age of thirty-three he was called to the ministry, and after thirteen months labour he preached against Herod's marriage with his brother's wife, which so incensed her, that she caused him to be beheaded.

The festivals of the Midsummer Watch, as they took place in London, in the fifteenth century, are thus described in *The Last of the Plantagenets* :—

“ It is known unto all men, that in the months of June and July, in the wealthy city of London, there were once* wont to be held certain joyful vigils and feasts, whereon many fires were made in the streets after sunset, unto which every man bestowed either wood or labour, the which were called *bon fires*, both because of the good amity they effected between neighbours, and the contentions which they brought unto an end; and, also for their great virtue in clearing the air of any infection or pestilence, which might be found in that hot season. At this time, too, the richer sort did set tables before their doors by the said fires, spread out with choice banquets, whereof they did invite the neighbours and passengers to sit down and partake; for there were of old no statelier holidays in London than the Vigils and Feasts of St. John the Baptist and St. Peter, at bright and merry Midsummer. At these vigils, ‘ every man’s door shewed like some rural tabernacle, being shadowed with green birch, long fennel, St. John’s wort, orpin, white lilies and such like, garnished upon with garlands of beautiful flowers. There were, also, many lamps of glass, with oil burning in them all night, some being hung upon branches of iron curiously wrought, which held hundreds lighted at once, and made a most goodly show; beside which, there were multitudes of flaming cressets hung up in the streets, and huge lanthorns, or iron grates with fire fixed on

* The processions and festivals of the City Watch were first prohibited by Henry VIII. in 1539, and remained in disuse until 1548, when Sir John Gresham revived them with great splendour, after which period they were never again renewed.

long staves, and carried about on men's shoulders, or held by them standing at the several lanes and passages.' The decorative illuminations described were the least parts of the *March of the City Watch*, as will be seen by the relation as follows:— 'Firstly, there came a party of watchmen bearing iron cages of fire upon staves, each designated by a painted badge, and followed by a man with a skin wallet, having therein a light, and pitched ropes to serve the cresset. Then came a wondrous pleasant noise of minstrels, and the City Waits, in their coats of tawny frieze, playing most rarely on crowds, rotes, shawms, dulcimers, sackbuts, and the like; the men were followed by morris-dancers, clothed in antic dresses making good pastime, sword players brandishing their weapons, and trumpeters on horseback. Next after them came part of the City Watch, ordered and trained by divers ancient soldiers of skill to be captains and officers over them; and, in truth, they were a right gallant troop, there being of them a great number and diversity, as pikemen in bright corselets or burgonets, billmen in Almaine-rivets and aprons of mail, gunners with harquebushes, halberdiers, and archers in coats of white fustian, signed on the back and breast with the arms of the City, their bows being bent in their hands, and a sheaf of arrows hung at their sides. The constables of London followed these in bright armour, some being over-gilt and cloaks of scarlet with gold chains, each one also being attended by his henchman, his minstrels, and his cresset light.' This procession passed from the upper end of West Cheap down to the Stocks-Market and Cornhill, by the Leadenhall to Aldgate, and through Fenchurch-street and Gracious-street, back unto the Conduit-in-Cheap.

"Another of the stately exhibitions which took place at this festival is thus described by an eye witness in the same work, 'these varlets in the say jackets of black and white, be the footmen, officers, and torch-bearers of the Lord Mayor, the Worshipful Sir Henry Colet, knight. These, ye may see, are his morris-dancers; there his lusty giant, Corinaeus, the ancient Trojan, carried by six stout men; and there be his three most goodly pageants of a ship, and an Olifaunte bearing a tower

on his back and merry bells therein ; and there, too, is a great red dragon to betoken the King's Grace, for he is a most loyal gentleman. In midst of all you may note the sword-bearer, riding in a wondrous fair armour ; and next after him, well mounted on that stout roan, the Mayor himself in passing rich clothing. There you see, too, his twain henchmen following on great stirring horses ; and then come the Sheriff's Watches, of good shew, but not like my lord's. Howbeit you can mark that each hath his giant clothed like a Saxon or a Norman, with his liverymen, lights, and minstrels. Look you now, fellows, then, that is Master John Percivall, one of the Sheriffs, and do but note what a fair pageant he hath in that castor, so thickly set with the King's arms and devices. And there again, is Master Hugh Clopton, the other Sheriff, with a like goodly and loyal pageant of a crown in a hawthorn bush carried by an angel, to denote how the princely Henry was crowned on Bosworth field, what time the foul tyrant and crooked usurper Richard Plantagenet was slain.' ”

26. 1830. KING GEORGE IV. DIED, ÆTAT. 68.

His late Majesty was born August 12th, 1762, became Regent on the 5th of February, 1811, and ascended the throne of these realms on the 29th of January, 1820. The immediate cause of his death was an ossification of the vessels of the heart. His remains were interred in the Royal Chapel at Windsor on the 15th of August.

Few reigns will be more memorable in history than that of George IV., who, as Regent and King, wielded the sceptre of England during an eventful period of her fortunes. In public affairs he divides the renown of the measures of his Government with his Ministers ; but it must be acknowledged that he performed the duties of his office with judgment and wisdom, especially in the interest with which he took a part in the undertakings of his counsellors. He was fond of ease, yet no one was more jealous of, or sooner aroused at, any encroachment on his prerogative. He does not seem to have possessed a pure taste in the arts. His edifices were furnished with the splendour of an Eastern emperor ; but the great principles that

regulate the Fine Arts were every where violated. Chinese and Tartar absurdities abounded in his palaces, which were destitute of solidity and correct beauty. His aid, however, was of the greatest use to British manufactures. No monarch before him personally helped them so much, or more encouraged the ingenuity of the artisan. His expenses knew no bounds, and he fortunately directed a great portion of them to a useful channel. The carpeting manufactured for his palaces is unrivalled in the world; and the products of industry stored in them were never equalled in skill of fabric before. In person he was tall and handsome, and his bearing was kingly, but his disposition was marked by strong feelings both of kindness and resentment—his memory was tenacious of the sense of injury—he was deficient in that magnanimity which is swift to forget or forgive the occasion of displeasure, and his friendships were never lasting. He was affable and familiar in his address—fond even of facetious intercourse with those who were honoured with his personal intimacy. But at the same time jealous of his dignity beyond what so exalted a station required; and, to any thoughtless violation of personal respect, even in moments when he appeared to lay aside the formal distinctions of rank, and indulge in social merriment, he was sensitive in the extreme. Yet he had a heart not wanting in claims of charity. We have already alluded to his moral bearing. Happy would it have been for his memory if he had cultivated with as devoted an attachment as his father those domestic qualities—those simple virtues, which, when they grace a throne, are a powerful incentive to the moral improvement of a nation. But young, surrounded by flatterers, and relieved from restraint, his passions got the better of his reason, and a disposition naturally generous was betrayed into acts wisdom rebuked, charity would forget, and all would willingly let die. There has, on the whole, been no reign in this country in which more splendid achievements have been performed, the principles of rational liberty and of public happiness more usefully developed, or the British empire elevated to a higher pinnacle of renown. The fall of the Emperor Napoleon, and the settlement of Ireland, are events that will immortalize the

reign of George the Fourth; and if the public liberties have advanced, and public opinion been more respected under his rule than under any preceding British Prince, it is no light tribute of honour to his reign.—*New Monthly Magazine*.



The above is copied from a lithographic sketch, purporting to be taken in Windsor Park the last time his Majesty took an airing there in his favourite pony phaeton.

SCENES IN WINDSOR CASTLE.

BY H. E. B., AUTHOR OF "THE PENSER," &c.

I saw a castle of beauty and power
 Bathed in the hues of the sunset hour;
 Proudly over the battlements fair
 A standard streamed on the soft blue air.
 The bright, the noble have graced those halls;
 The brave with laurel-crowns wreathed the walls:
 They are met once more by that mingled sound
 Of music and revelry floating around;
 I hear through each portal one chorus ring,
 Re-echoed by thousands—"God save the King!"

A change was darkening o'er the sky
 When next that castle met mine eye;
 The rosy tints of gold were flown,
 Eve's dusky shade remained alone;
 The song was hush'd—in whispers low
 Men asked of what they feared to know;

Tired messengers, despatched in speed,
Passed and repassed with foaming steed ;
While anxious eyes and lips compressed,
Though mute, th' impending doom confessed ;
This prayer true hearts were murmuring,
" Lord, we beseech thee, save our King !"

* * * *

I saw those ancient towers again,
They were wrapt as it were with a shroud,
And the flag that yields not on earth or main
Beneath the light wind bow'd.
A conqueror rent the palace gate,
And strode in gloomy pride,
Till he reached the throne in the hall of state,
Then he cast his arms aside.

A mournful stillness reigned profound,
The breath of life had fled,
When a train of followers gathered around
The couch of the princely dead ;
But Time so lightly had waved his wing,
They feared to awaken the dreamless king :
No trace of mortal pain appeared,
And a ray was seen to shine
O'er the cold, mute lips, and the brow revered
A type of bliss divine !

* * * *

Soft fell the dewy veil of night,
When glancing swift, a veil of light
Gleams from the ivy'd tower ;
With arms reversed, a martial band
Along the courts compacted stand,
Guarding the sacred hour.

Now faintly sweet the funeral dirge we hear,
Distinct yet distant, stealing on the ear ;

Continuous and sad the requiem floats,
Responding chords adopt the plaintive notes,
Leaving no pause between.
The trumpet's blast, the roll of muffled drum,
Proclaim the last solemnities are come ;
Knights, heralds, warriors, peers, advancing slow,
Robed in the pomp and pageantry of wo,
In marshalled ranks are seen.

Now borne beneath the torches' fitful light,
Britain's imperial banners fluttered bright,
In proud and rich array ;
The glittering crown, the sceptre, and the sword,
Shine round the gilded coffin of their lord,
Memorials of decay :

And hark ! the cannon's deadly roar
Bursts o'er the dirge and clarion's wail,
Portentous thundering on the gale,
“ Our sovereign breathes no more !”

Is there no mourner in the sable trains
Who crowd to view their King's enshrined remains ?
No gentle praise ? no tributary sigh ?
Yet thousands watch the regal canopy
Pass to the holy choir !
Could they who shared his lasting love behold
The drooping pall and velvet's waving fold,
Nor feel a thrilling pang unnerve the breast ?
Was every touch of inward grief repress,
Ere sank the mild and generous prince to rest,
Beside his honored sire ?

No ! there are hearts in yon bright retinue
Whom cold indifference dares not yet subdue,
They will not blush to shed
One loyal tear of gratitude, nor fear
Respectful sighs may wound the monarch's ear,
Who mourns a brother dead !

Statesmen may feel, and courtiers own,
Regret for him who graced the throne,
 When kindred princes weep ;
In signs of faith like these were seen,
To William and his gentle queen
 Allegiance pure and deep :

And who with iron heart can smile
When sweeps along the sacred aisle
 The organ's pealing sound ;
And wafted thence to cloister dim
Is faintly heard the choral hymn,
 Reverberating round ?

Contendant notes in union meet,
The minute-gun, the anthem sweet,
 The bell's sepulchral toll ;
Oh, let not nobler man disdain
To breathe with them the hallowed strain—
 “ Peace to King George's soul !”

Literary Gazette.

The authoress of “ *The Will, or Twenty-one Years,*” having favoured us with the following poem, it may not be inappropriately introduced as a conclusion to this day.

THE PREDICTION FULFILLED.

BY MRS. ANN ROLFE.

There is a prediction preserved by the monkish annalists, which is said to have been delivered in the time of William the Conqueror, as an anathema or curse ; signifying that no more than three monarchs should ever reign in this kingdom without some violent interruption. His late Majesty George IV., by his accession, was the first to break the spell, as the following will clearly shew : William I. William II. Henry I. interrupted by the usurpation of Stephen. Henry II. Richard I. John, interrupted by Louis the Dauphin. Henry III. Edward I. Edward II. interrupted by the abdication and murder of Edward II. Edward III. Richard II. interrupted

by the deposition of Richard II. Henry IV. Henry V. Richard III. interrupted by the usurpation of Henry Richmond. Henry VII. Henry VIII. Edward VI. interrupted by the election of Lady Jane Grey, and making King Henry's daughters illegitimate. Mary, Elizabeth. A foreign king called to the crown. James I. Charles I. interrupted by the Commonwealth. Charles II. James II. interrupted by the abdication of James and the election of a foreigner. William III., Anne, interrupted by Parliament appointing a foreigner. George I. II. III. IV.—*Weekly Dispatch, Jan. 3rd, 1830.*

Shall a Norman, my Ella, presume to enslave,
The glory of nations the hearts of the brave ;
Presume to usurp both the church and the state
And pour in his legions to make himself great :
And wrest from our Harold the sceptre and crown,
To strut as our king, on the page of renown ;
Go perish the thought—while thy Arthur can wield
The axe, and the spear, the sabre, and shield ;
He'll furiously fight for our sea-beaten shore,
And conquer—aye conquer, or see thee no more ;
But ah ! should I fall, seek my manes where I fell,
Love and War is my motto—now dearest farewell.—

These words spake Lord Arthur to Ella the fair
Then mounting his courser, he flew thro' the air ;
Nor paused till the king and the army he joined,
When thus to the former he opened his mind,
Oh ! let not your breast royal sire, heave a sigh ;
Behold those brave troops, they will conquer or die ;
And while my own body hath sinews so tough,
Your foes, curse them all, shall have beating enough ;
And ne'er shall a Norman my sovereign be,
For my interest and life are devoted to thee.

The signal was given—the battle began,
But England's brave warriors fell man after man ;
And vainly Lord Arthur each opponent curs'd,
Making helmets and heads to roll in the dust ;
He was wounded, and fell, and Harold was slain,
The flower of whose army lay stretched on the plain ;

While William deriding fire, slaughter, and flood,
Ascended the throne bought with carnage and blood.
Meantime a poor monk Arthur's body espying,
Which lay all confused, midst the dead and the dying ;
Examined it closely, and saw, with a start,
That life, warmth, and beauty still beat at the heart ;
No cynic was he—but he tenderly bound
Up the warrior's bruised limbs, and each horrific wound ;
And Arthur thus raised from his death bed of woe
Unclosed his dim eyes for a moment or so ;
And seeing brave Harold extended in gore,
He shrieked in wild frenzy—the king is no more ;
The king is no more—oh ! for his sake alone
A curse deep and deadly shall cleave to the throne ;
Note my words holy man—note the strength of the spell,
And record it in blood where the brave Harold fell.

Three sov'reign princes and no more
The Throne of England shall ascend ;
Without some interruption sore,
Some desperate fray with foe or friend :
Unless the third from youth to age,
Should govern virtuously and well ;
Then a fourth George, I will presage,
Shall mount the throne and break the spell.
These words to thee are dark I ween,
But more is meant than can be seen.

Here the furious Lord Arthur with grief and despair,
Called loudly on Ella, on Ella the fair,
Then placing his cold trembling hand on his side,
Oh ! farewell my Ella, he frantically cried ;
When his wounds bled afresh, and he instantly died.

Whether Providence, chance, or the magic of fate
Rule the leaders of war, the church, and the state
We presume not to argue, our aim is to see
How far this prediction with truth will agree.

So William the first, and second, 'tis known
Successively seated themselves on the throne ;
Then Henry the first reigned with little renown,
Yet he left to his daughter Matilda the crown.

However young Stephen of Blois, void of shame,
As rapid as thought *interrupted* the same ;
And seized on the kingdom 'midst dangers and strife,
And lived a usurper the rest of his life.

Now Henry the second succeeded this race,
A warrior, a statesman, a prince full of grace ;
And when he expired, as proper and just,
His son took his place—brave Richard the first.

He was followed by John, a prince discontented,
Who lived unbeloved—and died unlamented ;
And here the young reader will see at a glance,
The crown was *annoyed* by the Dauphin of France.
Though in spite of his arms, and arrogand herd,
The sceptre was swayed by our Henry the third.

The next in succession, as seen by his birth,
Was Edward the first, famed for victory and worth ;
But Edward the second, his son and right heir,
Though he reigned as a monarch, yet died in despair ;
For, as history owns, he was fettered and slain,
And thus was the throne *interrupted* again.

Young Edward the third next governs the state,
A sovereign whose virtues were many and great ;
And after him Richard the second appears,
But he was deposed in a very few years ;
Interrupted once more by his fall and disgrace
Which seats on the throne the Lancastrian race.

Now Henry the fourth and fifth wear the crown,
Then Henry the sixth—but misfortune's dark frown
Too soon for his peace embittered his life,
His subjects rebellious—the realm full of strife,
His friends slaughtered near him—his queen in despair,
While the rose of the Yorkists waved high in the air ;

Oh! king most unhappy—thus plucked from the throne,
He was murdered,—and left to expire alone ;
Interrupted again—by these tragical woes,
Proud Edward the fourth to the sovereignty rose ;
Then Richard the third—with his gorgon like rage,
A tyrant ensanguined, a pest to the age ;
Till Henry of Richmond, deriding alarms,
Filled his kingdom at once with the thunder of arms ;
And though he soon met him in battle array,
Yet fortune frowned on him—his foe won the day ;
While himself deeply wounded and bathed in warm gore ;
Fell fighting too bravely—and never rose more ;
Interrupted again—by these changes profound,
And Richmond, as Henry the seventh is crowned.

Stern Henry the eighth, like the sun's passing beam,
Next glittered in state, then was gone as a dream,
Then Edward the sixth—formed for virtue and truth ;
But he drooped and expired in the bloom of his youth.

Interrupted again—for the king it is known,
To Lady Jane Grey left the kingdom and throne ;
Excluding his sisters thereby, who had been,
By Henry the eighth, made the daughters of sin ;
But justice and right aptly governed the Laws,
And Mary was crowned, with the nation's applause ;
As a blight, as a curse, as a pestilence sore,
She reigned—and then died, and was thought of no more.

Elizabeth next wore the crown—whose great name,
Will long be enrolled in the annals of fame ;
But death, who derides the distinction of birth,
Laid her, like the rest, with her kindred earth.

Interrupted again—for the queen so decreed,
That the king of the Scots to the throne should succeed ;
A foreigner thus called, to the kingly command,
Lived to govern our laws, our people, and land ;
Charles the first followed next, his unfortunate son ;
Who was brought to the scaffold—by Cromwell undone.

Interrupted again—as it clearly appears,
By the famed Commonwealth—which stood lordly for years;
Charles the second at last, found his way to the crown,
And bloodshed, and anarchy, both were put down.

James the second next reigns—breaks his oath and the law;
When rebellion quick sounded the trumpet of war;
Alarmed at the danger, unfriended, alone,
He flies o'er to France—and thus vacates the throne.

Interrupted again—by this strange revolution;
Which left unprotected our famed constitution;
But th' renowned Prince of Orange—as left on record,
As William the third reigned our sovereign and lord;
Anne of Denmark next followed, a queen in her prime,
That rose like a star at this critical time;
But as stars set in night, when their labour is done;
And change, and give place, to their rival, the sun;
So Anne sank to rest—and here it is plain,
That the throne was thereby *interrupted* again
For the parliament, brave, patriotic, and free,
Called a foreigner hither their monarch to be;
And the Sun that first steadily rose on our Isles,
Was our loved George the first—with his wisdom and smiles;
Could the shades of our fathers but tell of this hour,
When England was strengthened by commerce and power;
When the lands of Great Britain were heard to resound
With the echoing cry of—a Brunswick is crowned;
When the seas seemed to shout to the foes of our shore,
A George is our king, and we fear thee no more.
George the second, revered, next figures in story
But the one so beloved, the delight and the glory
Of a people refined by his virtues and parts,
Was our late George the third, the beloved of our hearts;
Long, long, he reigned over us wisely and well,
As our statesmen can prove—and our warriors can tell;
And when he expired full of glory and years,
His manes were embalmed by a nation's warm tears:
Thus the third governed virtuously, wisely, and well,
And the fourth George—our sovereign hath broken the spell.

Grim shade of Lord Arthur that battled with fame,
That recorded in blood both thy vengeance and name ;
Go rest thee in peace in some region unknown ;
Since freedom and truth have established our throne ;
On the basis of glory, so firm and secure,
That no charm can shake it, while ages endure ;
And long may it stand as a rock 'midst the storm,
Unsubdued by commotion, unchanged in its form ;
The footstool of mercy, the sun of our Isle :
The temple where science may enter and smile ;
The hope of the brave, the resort of the wise ;
The fountain of truth, unrestrained by surprise ;
The head of the state, but with Argus's eyes ?

28. 1830. KING WILLIAM IV. PROCLAIMED.

29. ST. PETER,

Or Simon Peter, as he is very commonly called in Scripture, was the son of Jonah of Bethsaida, in Upper Galilee. After his conversion, St. Peter lived at Capernaum, and from *Luke*, chap iv. ver. 31—38, it appears Christ frequently lodged at his house. In the year 64 he settled at Rome, where he fell under the displeasure of the Emperor Nero, who, falsely accusing the Christians of setting fire to the city, began a dreadful persecution against them. After a confinement of nine months Nero ordered St. Peter to be executed, which took place on the top of the Vatican mount.

The illumination of St. Peter's Church, and the fireworks for the Castle of St. Angelo, at Rome, on this day, far exceed any thing the imagination can possibly conceive. A modern tourist says : " The lighting of the lanteroni, or large paper lanterns, each of which looks like a globe of ethereal fire, had been going on for an hour, and, by the time we arrived there, was nearly completed. As we passed the Ponte San Angelo, the

appearance of this magnificent church, glowing in its own brightness—the millions of lights reflected in the calm waters of the Tiber, and mingling with the last golden glow of evening, so as to make the whole building seem covered with burnished gold, had a most striking and magical effect.”

1830. WILLIAM PRICK, M.R.S.L. DIED.

A learned oriental scholar, born at Worcester, near which city he died from a fit of apoplexy in June, 1830. In 1811 he went out as Assistant Secretary and Interpreter to the English Embassy in Persia, under Sir Gore Ouseley. He afterwards published a *Journal of the Embassy*; which contains much information interesting to the philologist. During his stay at Shiraz he made such discoveries as enabled him to decipher the arrow-headed characters found among the ruins of Persepolis, &c., which had long exercised the acumen of oriental scholars. He published a *Grammar of the Hindostanee, Persian, and Arabic*; *Elements of the Sanscrit Language*; and a new *Grammar of the Hindostanee Language*.



Gate-keeper's Lodge, Royal Lodge, Windsor.

J U L Y.

July, to whom the *Dog-Star* in her train,
Saint James gave oysters, and *Saint Swithin* rain.

Churchill.

THIS month received its name from Marc Anthony, in honor of Julius Cæsar, who was born this month; before which it was called, by Romulus, *Quintilis*. The Romans considered July as under the protection of Jupiter; and on the first day the leases of their houses generally expired, and were renewed.

July was, by the Saxons, says Verstegan, “called *heu-monat*, or *hey-monat*, that is to say, hey-moneth, because therein they usually mowed, and made their hey-harvest.” Peacham says: “July I would have drawn in a jacket of light yellow, eating cherries, with his face and bosom sun-burnt; on his head a wreath of centaury and wild-thyme; a sithe on his shoulders; a bottle at his girdle; carrying the sign *Leo*,” or the *Lion*, which is the zodiacal sign of the month.

2. VISITATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY.

This day commemorates the visit of the Virgin Mary to her cousin Elizabeth, the mother of St. John, in the mountain of Judea, immediately after the announcement of the “glad tidings” that she was the appointed of the

Almighty, for the incarnation of the Redeemer. It was first made a festival of the church by Pope Urban the Sixth, in the year 1383, and it was afterwards confirmed, not only by a decree of Pope Boniface the Ninth, but by the Council of Basille in 1441.

THE VIRGIN MARY'S BANK.*

BY JOSEPH C. CALLANAN.

The evening star rose beauteous above the fading day,
As to the lone and solemn beach the Virgin came to pray,
And bill and wave shone brightly in the moonlight's mellow
fall,

But the bank of green where Mary knelt was the brightest of
them all.

Slow moving o'er the waters a gallant bark appeared,
And her joyous crew look'd from the deck as to the land she
near'd;

To the calm and shelter'd haven she floated like a swan,
And her wings of snow, o'er the waves below, in pride and
beauty shone.

The master saw 'our lady' as he stood upon the prow,
And mark'd the whiteness of her robe and the radiance of her
brow;

Her arms were folded gracefully upon her stainless breast,
And her eyes look'd up amongst the stars to HIM her soul lov'd
best.

* These very beautiful verses are founded on an existing popular tradition in the county of Cork. There is not a fisherman, we believe, who visits the bay of Cloghnakilty but can show the green hillock; known as *the Virgin Mary's Bank*.

"In the bay of Cloghnakilty, which divides Ishawne from Barryroe, is the pleasant island of Inehydanny. The island, by an inquisition held at Cork, Nov. 4th, 1584, was found to be escheated, for want of heirs, to Queen Elizabeth, and the Bishop of Ross had but seven marks, half-faced money, out of the same."—*Smith's History of Cork*.

He show'd her to his sailors, and he hail'd her with a cheer,
 And on the kneeling Virgin they gaz'd with laugh and jeer,
 And madly swore a form so fair they never saw before,
 And they curs'd the faint lagging breeze that kept them from
 the shore.

The ocean from its bosom shook off the moonlight sheen,
 And up its wrathful billows rose to vindicate their queen,
 And a cloud came o'er the heavens, and a darkness o'er the land,
 And the scoffing crew beheld no more the lady on the strand.

Out burst the growling thunder, and the lightning leap'd about,
 And rushing with its watery war the tempest gave a shout,
 And that vessel from a mountain wave came down with thund'ring
 shock,
 And her timbers flew, like scatter'd spray, on Inchidony's rock.

Then loud from all that guilty crew one shriek rose wild and
 high,
 But the angry surge swept over them and hush'd their gurgling
 cry ;
 And, with a hoarse exulting tone, the tempest passed away,
 And down, still chafing from their strife, the indignant waters
 lay.

When the calm and purple morning shone out on high Dunmore,
 Full many a mangled corpse was seen on Inchidony's shore ;
 And to this day the fisherman shows where these scoffers sank,
 And still he calls that hillock green, the Virgin Mary's bank.

2. 1724. KLOPSTOCK, THE GERMAN POET, BORN.
STANZAS WRITTEN WHILST READING "KLOPSTOCK'S
MESSIAH," DURING A STORM.

My small—my holy book ! thou tellest me,
 Of dwellings, far beyond this storm-beat sphere ;
 Of beings, radiant in immortal light ;
 Of man, made like them ; of the *Ever Bright* !
 Th' ADORABLE ! whose agonies severe
 Gain'd us,—unspeakable felicity !

My lovely book!—I read thee, till I find
 My soul identified, with the infinity
 Of scenes, and beings, which thou dost portray;
 Around me breaks a brighter, holier day;
 I glow with ecstasy,—and seem to be
 All light, and fervour, airiness, and *mind*!

My small—my holy book,—I may not *now*
 Upon thy page, in silent rapture dwell;
 My gross, corporeal sense hath caught the sound
 Of the rough storm,—which rising,—roars around;
 Its moan afar,—its dreary, gradual swell:
 And crash of woods, that to its fury bow!

My lovely book!—whilst yet the thrilling strain,
 Th' immortal, saintly harping of the skies
 Rang in my *mental* ear,—the body's seat
 Of hearing,—as the leaden hail-drops beat,—
 And the rough tempest wind's lugubrious sighs
 Woke,—and my spirit brought to *Earth* again!

M. L. B.

3. DOG-DAYS BEGIN.

Dog-days is a term given to the hottest time of the year, which, according to the Almanacks, is from this day to the 11th of August, which is a certain number of days before and after the heliacal rising of *Canicula*, or the dog-star, in the morning.

4. TRANSLATION OF ST. MARTIN.

This day commemorates the translation or removal of St. Martin's body from one tomb to another more magnificent, by order of Perpetuus, his successor in the see of Tours. (See St. Martin, Nov. 11).

7. THOMAS A'BECKET.

This day commemorates the anniversary of the translation of the relics of Thomas a'Becket from the under-

croft of Canterbury Cathedral, on this day, in the year 1220, to a sumptuous shrine at the east end of the church, to which crowds of pilgrims afterwards resorted.

A'Becket, the son of a London merchant, was afterwards Archbishop of Canterbury, and memorable for his pride, insolence, and ingratitude. He was murdered on the 29th of December, 1171, in Canterbury Cathedral, by four knights, to avenge some insults which they conceived King Henry II. to have received from the haughty primate.

9. 1829. WILLIAM THOMAS FITZGERALD DIED,
ÆTAT. 70.

A descendant from the Desmond branch of the illustrious family of the Fitz-Geralds of Ireland; brought up for the Bar, but which he relinquished on obtaining, in the year 1782, a situation in the Navy Pay Office; which he retained till age placed him on the superannuated list. He was the author of a great quantity of fugitive poetry which appeared in the *European* and *Gentleman's Magazines* and other periodicals during the last half century: the chief of which were of a loyal and patriotic nature. He was an early and warm supporter of the Literary Fund, at the anniversary dinners of which, for thirty-two successive years, he regularly recited an original poem in praise of the charity: in allusion to which Lord Byron, in his biting satire, says:—

“ Who has not heard the loud Fitzgerald bawl,
His creaking couplets in a tavern hall.”

15. ST. SWITHIN.

This Saint was of noble origin, and, while a priest, Egbert, King of England, appointed him preceptor to his son Ethelwolf, who, on succeeding to the throne, procured for Swithin the bishopric of Winchester in 852; after which he prevailed on the monarch to grant a charter of tithes to the church. He died in the year 862, and,

by his own desire, was buried in the open church-yard. The monks considering it disgraceful for the Saint to lie in a public cemetery, resolved to remove his body into the choir, which was to have been done, with solemn procession, on the 15th of July. It rained, however, so violently for forty days, succeeding, that the design was abandoned as heretical and blasphemous, and they honoured his memory by erecting a chapel over his grave. From this circumstance arose the saying that “if it rains on St. Swithin’s Day, it will rain for forty days after : in just ridicule of which Gay says :

Let not such vulgar tales debase thy mind,
Nor Paul nor Swithin rule the clouds and wind.

18. 1828. DREADFUL HURRICANE IN LINCOLN.

A dreadful hurricane or tornado passed through a considerable part of the county of Lincoln on this day, which was productive of effects very singular and exceedingly destructive. For the following narration, we are indebted to a person who visited the woods and other parts of the neighbourhood, where the ravages of the tempest were most conspicuous.

This phenomenon appears to have been first observed a few miles south-westward of Boston. During the morning the atmosphere was sultry, and about noon a thunder-storm appeared to be gathering in the south. Between two and three o’clock thunder was heard, and shortly afterwards a single vivid flash of lightning was observed. At this time a small black cloud was noticed suddenly to descend in the shape of a column, and as suddenly a similar cloud appeared to rise from the earth ; the two joined and formed a vast black column, reaching from the clouds to the earth. This body, accompanied by a loud rushing sound resembling the discharge of artillery, advanced rapidly from the south towards the north-east, until it reached Wyberton Fen, where two labourers were spreading manure,

but who ran off on perceiving its approach. After taking up and carrying the manure to a considerable distance, and levelling a field of wheat which lay in its track, the column crossed the North Forty-foot Drain, drawing therefrom a considerable quantity of water, which it immediately afterwards deposited. On the north bank of the drain is a farm, the yard of which the column entered, and in an instant it levelled a strong kid crew fence, and lifted into the air a number of sheep hurdles. With equal rapidity it uncovered a waggon shed, and threw down the end of the building, though strongly constructed of brick, and also partly uncovered and materially injured a barn adjoining the shed. The column next drew into its vortex a heavy cart, and a ponderous four horse roller, carrying the cart with amazing velocity a distance of forty-two yards, and the roller nearly twenty yards. It then passed to another farm, where it threw down a large apple-tree, and took up fifteen geese and a number of pigeons, returning them in a few seconds completely lifeless. The hurricane then passed towards the river Witham, on crossing which the column was observed to rise and elevate its lower extremity in a considerable degree: continuing its course northward, it was observed sometimes to elevate itself in such a manner that its effects were not felt; then again it would descend, spreading devastation in its progress.

About a mile westward from the village of Mareham-le-fen, the road from Tattershall to Spilsby passes between Tumby and Fulsby Woods, the first of which is situated on the south, the other on the north side of the road. Towards these woods the terrific mass was attracted, and on its approach thither, it was observed to form itself into two columns, which twisted themselves spirally, one apparently in an ascending, the other in a descending direction. It was accompanied by a tremendous noise, and emitted flashes of fire and a powerful sulphurous smell, and was followed by torrents of rain. Entering Tumby Wood on the south side, the tempest rapidly spread its devastating effects therein very widely, though partially, and proceeded in a north-eastward direction for about half a mile. It there crossed diagonally a road which intersects the wood, and then changed its course for one directly northward, moving

parallel with, and at a distance of about twenty yards to the east of the road which it had crossed, concentrating its effects in its progress through the wood. On the western side of the road, a few trees were torn up parallel with it, at distances of from twelve to twenty yards from each other. On reaching the road between the two woods, the stupendous mass elevated itself for a short distance, but again descended in Fulsby Wood, where it recommenced its ravages with redoubled fury, completely laying waste in its passage through the wood a track of about half a mile in length, and from forty to sixty yards in breadth. Here immense oak trees were torn up by the roots, and thrown about in all directions; some were completely split from top to bottom; others splintered into various pieces, several were twisted into cord-like fragments; whilst an immense number were deprived of their tops and their branches. The number of trees injured and thrown down in these two woods is stated by the woodkeepers to EXCEED FIVE THOUSAND. Passing by the west side of Haltham Wood, where it tore up a few trees and scathed a few others, the tempest proceeded in its course northward, alternately rising and falling, sometimes forming one and sometimes more columns, and accompanied by an immense body of rain. At the village of Dalderby, the hurricane descended near to a farm-house, and after tearing up several large ash trees, it nearly destroyed an orchard within a few yards of the house. A little further northward it threw down a few trees by the road side, and injured others; after which it ascended, and its effects were no more felt in this part, excepting at the village of Ranby, six miles north of Horncastle, where a few trees were injured.

It is gratifying to state, that no human life was sacrificed by the fury of this tempest, though several individuals experienced hair breadth escapes. Near the North Forty-foot Drain, a labourer was nearly caught in its vortex, and with extreme difficulty extricated himself. A boy, near Tumby Wood, in an almost similar predicament, escaped with the loss of his hat. A commercial traveller, passing in his gig from Tattershall to Horncastle, took shelter under a tree by the road side, from which he had only retreated a few seconds before it was blown

down ; and four labourers in the parish of Martin, who had taken shelter under a tree, hastily quitted it, and threw themselves on their faces whilst the hurricane passed over, carrying their scythes to a great distance, and tearing up the tree which they had quitted.

20. ST. MARGARET.

The daughter of a pagan priest, born at Antioch. Olybius, president of the East, under the Romans, wished to marry her ; but finding she was a Christian, he postponed his intended nuptials in the hopes of prevailing on her to renounce her religion ; finding her, however, inflexible, he caused her to be first tortured and then beheaded in the year 278.

SONNET.

TO RAPHAEL'S PICTURE OF ST. MARGARET.

Hail ! Saint ! whose form the pencil yet pourtrays,
Calling our minds to hallowed times of old,
When pastors grave, to guard their wandering fold,
From prowling Wolf that on meek virtue preys,
Gathered their flocks on holie ground to graze,
By fountains pure, where sacred waters rolled,
And when at eve the vesper's bell had tolled
Around their hopes the pen of faith did raise,
Inspire me to exhort our faltering race ;
To strive with him thou, martyred virgin, trod.
Then chere thou with thy form and tranquil face,
Christ's sheep awaiting his directing nod,
Who whylome held on earth the heavenlie mace,
And brought them back to their appeased God.

22. ST. MARY MAGDALEN.

This day was first dedicated to the memory of St. Mary Magdalen by King Edward VI. It was, however, discontinued in the Protestant church at the period of the Reformation, but is still observed in that of Rome.

25. ST. JAMES.

St. James the Great, an apostle and brother of St. John the Evangelist, was born in Galilee, and by profession a fisherman. While preaching and promoting the Gospel, he was apprehended and beheaded by order of Agrippa in the year 43, about fourteen years after the death of Christ.

26. ST. ANNE.

The mother of the Virgin Mary, and wife of Joachim; in whose honor this festival is still retained in the Romish and Greek churches, but discontinued in the Protestant.

27, 28, 29. 1830. FRENCH REVOLUTION.



Hotel de Ville, Paris.*

Before thee rose, and with thee grew
A rainbow of the loveliest hue
Of three bright colors, each divine,
And fit for that celestial sign;
For Freedom's hand had blended them,
Like tints in an immortal gem.

* The Hotel de Ville, or Town Hall of Paris, was the principal scene of action, and was taken and retaken several times by the two parties. It is stated that, on the 28th, upwards of

One tint was of the sunbeams' dyes ;
One the blue depths of Seraph's eyes ;
One the pure Spirit's veil of white
Had robed in radiance of its light :
The three so mingled did beseech
The texture of a heavenly dream.

Byron.

These three days, rendered so memorable in history, and so glorious in the annals of France, demand some record in our Telescope. As our space is brief, we cannot do better than lay before our readers the following just and spirited sketch of the Rise, Progress, and Termination of the Revolution, from the able pen of a cotemporary :—

“ The Bourbons, placed on the throne of France at the point of the bayonet, never found their seat an easy one. Awed by the events of the counter-revolution, and, perhaps—for the French are essentially in love with change—tired of glory, the nation submitted to the re-assumption of the throne by Louis as one inevitable result of the day of Waterloo. They submitted, but they were never reconciled to this visitation. They amused themselves, however, with writing *pasquinades* and

700 were either killed or wounded before this building. Its remaining in possession of the people at the close of this day is attributed by M. Collard, one of the combatants, to the following circumstance : “ A young man, bearing in his hand a tri-coloured flag, advanced under a shower of bullets upon the suspended bridge which joins the Grève to the quay of the city ; and, mounting to the façade of the pillar on the side of the Grève, he there planted the national colours. The sight of the flag of liberty reanimated the courage of the brave French. They returned to the charge with new ardour. But unfortunately, at the first fire of the Guards, the brave young man was struck by one of the bullets. He rolled down to the foot of the ladder which he had so bravely mounted, and his lifeless body fell into the Seine. It was then, that in their rage and courage, forgetting every thing but the disaster of their brave brother, the besiegers rushed on the assassins, got possession of their artillery, and discharged it against them. From that time the victory was not doubtful. The cause of liberty had triumphed.”

manufacturing *bon mots*, which were not only very interesting to the people, but very useful to their rulers; for the dissatisfaction of a nation may evaporate innocently enough in a joke, which, if repressed, might cause an explosion, the consequences of which it would not be so easy to foresee. The amiable character of Louis, his frankness and *bonhomie*, had their effect, and the people who could not admire were content to endure this 'Prince gourmand et aimable.' Years of peace produced plenty, wealth poured into France through the channels opened by Napoleon; commerce, manufactures, and agriculture, brought their treasures into her lap, and the neighbouring nations still paid their contributions in the form of hundreds of thousands of residents and visitors, whom the love of knowledge, the charms of society, regard to health or economy—in short, all those whom good or bad taste, necessity, or the want of something to do at home, generally send abroad. There was no cause of complaint, but there was plenty of discontent, longing for something to complain of. The old army, to whom Angoulême had made himself a proverb, and who still thought with bitterness of the foreign troops by whom Paris had been forced to capitulation, longed to tear off the chains of Europe, which were twined round the necks of Frenchmen, and placed in the hands of the Bourbons. They recalled the days of military glory, when France was a camp, and all Europe a magazine for their accommodation, or a sutler's tent for their entertainment. The name of young Napoleon would have sounded as sweetly as 'zephyr on a bed of violets;' but that Austria, like a flower of different odour, lay between. Napoleon himself could not have sustained such spirits during a ten years' peace. But opportunity, and a pretext of revolt, were wanting. This party, powerful in enterprise, had well nigh died of inaction. Restitution is a horrible word, even when softened by indemnity; and there were certain varieties of both these species inseparable from such an event as a restoration, which greatly swelled the number of the malcontents. Public opinion had set in a new current since the year 1789, and however it had changed and shifted, yet the general direction was constantly the same. But with this current the Bourbons could not sail; they had always been whirled

about in its eddies, and continually driven back by its counter-currents. They could not comprehend the temper of the times; they were totally ignorant of the new French people; they struggled to get back the regal authority and the popular liberty to what they were before the assembly of the States-General; every concession they made was absolutely required at their hands; it was granted with a bad grace, and they always strove to get again by a side wind what they had given in the full sweep of liberality. The whole conduct of the family since the restoration has been a continued series of petty aggressions—a uniform accelerated motion towards arbitrary rule. On the other hand, the people have been no less busy in undermining the royal authority. Priests and ministers have struggled on the one side, argument and the press have been industrious on the other. The accession of the Duke d'Artois only brought a more vigorous arm to the work which had been feebly carried on by Louis XVIII. Charles X. was personally brave and naturally determined; but, like one of our Stuarts, he partook of the family failing; and although outwardly popular in his acts and inclinations, he was inwardly devoted to arbitrary power and supreme authority. He was uncommonly active in his personal exertions, truly pious; but bigotted, and, as the phrase is, 'priest-ridden.' He was remarkably and inexcusably ignorant of the temper of his people and the state of affairs, at least towards the end of his government. That he was anxious to propitiate his people has been said of him without the shadow of truth. He meant them well, but he was quite determined that the good he did them should be done in his own way. In this spirit he exercised the right he undoubtedly possessed to choose his ministers. The people did not deny the right, but reminded him that he held it of them and for their good. The result has proved that he chose foolishly when he fixed on his natural son, Polignac, to be his first minister; and the same proof is manifest that the people remonstrated wisely, and were justified in demanding his removal. Charles assured the nation that it was not represented by the deputies, and sent them back to the electors, who returned the same members, or persons thinking as they did. Charles and his ministers, arguing from their own principles,

determined that as they had been defeated in their constitutional appeal to the people, it was high time to have recourse to measures of a different character, the first of which was to bind fast the wheels of that great machine by which the progress of opinion was secured. The report which served as a preamble to the famous ordonnances of the 25th of July, and which has been more commented on than read, gives the following picture of the then state of the nation:—‘Notwithstanding an actual prosperity of which our annals afford no example, signs of disorganization and symptoms of anarchy manifest themselves at almost every point of the kingdom. Pernicious and subversive doctrines, loudly professed, are spread and propagated among all classes of the population. An active, ardent, indefatigable malevolence labours to ruin all the foundations of order, and to snatch from France the happiness it enjoys under the sceptre of its kings. Skilful in turning to advantage all discontents. and to excite all hatreds, it foment among the people a spirit of distrust and hostility towards power, and endeavours to sow every where the seeds of trouble and civil war; and already, Sire, recent events have proved that political passions, hitherto confined to the summits of society, begin to penetrate the depths of it, and to stir up the popular classes. It is proved also that these masses would never move without danger, even to those who endeavour to rouse them from repose. A multitude of facts collected in the course of the electoral operations confirm these data, and offer us the too certain presage of new commotions. It must be acknowledged these agitations, which cannot be increased without great dangers, are almost exclusively produced and excited by the liberty of the press.’

“Thus well informed were the Polignac ministry of the wide-spread disaffection and one of its exciting causes; the other, while they seem to doubt, they tacitly confess was a lodged long-enduring hatred of the Bourbons. It is clear to the dullest vision that all France was ripe for change, and that the late revolution sprung out of causes which had long existed, but which had waited the moment for their regeneration. Allowing for the false colour, the following passage of

the report is no doubt a fact:—‘A vast net thrown over France envelopes all the public functionaries. Placed in a constant state of accusation, they seem to be in a manner cut from civil society; only those are spared whose fidelity wavers—only those are praised whose fidelity gives way: the others are marked by the faction to be in the sequel, no doubt, sacrificed to popular vengeance.’ Whether our hero assisted to spread this net is an important question which we have little hesitation to answer in the negative. The press, which the ministry considered as the voice of the disaffected, must be stopped; and from the report we have just cited rose those ordonnances which were to have placed the organ of public opinion under a surveillance scarcely less absolute than that by which it was directed under the despotism of Napoleon Buonaparte. But the liberal press in France had only indulged itself in a liberty justified by every principle of freedom, restrained by a respect for social order—it demanded constitutionally the preservation of the constitution, it complained in a noble and dignified manner against the abuse of power and the restraint on liberty; which the ministry had effected or contemplated. It called on the people, and the people answered the call. The crisis approached, and the liberal writers set the example by the dignity of their conduct, or a constitutional opposition to unjustifiable tyranny. Three days of revolution, marked by the same self-command and dignity which was enforced by the precepts and examples of the liberal writers, placed the hero of our story on the throne of France.

“The events of those three immortal days are fresh in the memory of our readers. The liberal journalists resolved to print independently of the ordonnances, and the municipal authority interfered to prevent them. The people rose *en masse* in defence of their liberties, thus wantonly attacked. The troops of the king, in great part composed of friends of the people, revolted or fought unwillingly, and the mercenaries were attacked in their defences, and driven from their strong holds by the unarmed multitude; the people became soldiers—a number of young and ardent heroes sprung at once into the rank of captains, leaders, generals, and orators; they inflamed

the people with their speeches, and inspired them by their example. Women and children joined the army of liberators; the streets were torn up to make defences, the arsenal was broken open, arms procured from every quarter, and the troops were finally driven from Paris: the people became again the sovereign power. The combat began on Tuesday evening, the day after the issue of the ordonnances. The firing continued during the whole night. On Wednesday the town was declared in a state of siege; various actions took place, one in the Rue de Montmartre, in which the Duke of Ragusa led on his troops in person, and was repulsed by the brave citizens of Paris, under the command of one who had seen fewer birthdays than Marmont had seen battles. Most of the strong points were this day taken and retaken several times. That night the streets were barricaded with trees felled in the boulevards, coaches, waggons, and the piled up stones of the pavement. Every public place was shut on Thursday, the tocsin chimed, and the cry *aux armes* rang through the city; the chief combat this day was with the Swiss guards at the Louvre—this was carried triumphantly. The army were expelled from Paris. A municipal directory was formed under Lafitte, a national guard under Lafayette,* and our hero was called to the lieutenancy

* The appointment of General Lafayette to the command of the National Guard had the happiest effect. Forty years before, at the beginning of the former Revolution, he had called out and organised that national and constitutional force for the preservation of the public safety. Under the Republic he laid down his hereditary title of Marquis, and never resumed it. He was exiled and proscribed by factions of his native land, and endured years of rigorous imprisonment in the dungeons of foreign tyranny. He refused to aid despotism, whether under Napoleon or the Bourbons. He rejected place, command, honors and titles, whether offered to him by usurped or right-divine royalty. Loving liberty above all things, this pre-eminent patriot had reaped a rich harvest of its principles in America, carefully cultured the seeds in France, and lived to see them take root. As the undeviating and undaunted champion of freedom, the people now hoped for his assistance in preserving the fruit of his labours. The public safety was committed to his keeping as Commander-in-Chief of the

of the kingdom, and accepted the call. The deputies assembled, the popular side was of course strong to exclusion—the peers were allowed to nod their approbation of the acts they dared not dispute. On Saturday Charles X. left St. Cloud, and on the 17th of the following month arrived in England an exile. His ministers were all surprised and taken prisoners, and await the mercy or the justice of our hero, who, by the unanimous voice of the nation, for the safety of France, and the peace of Europe, was proclaimed King, and succeeded to the throne of his ancestors, on the 9th of August, 1830, under the title of Louis Philippe I., King of the French. May his reign be long and happy!"—*Atlas*.

National Guard. His name and fame electrified the disbanded individuals of this civic body; they rallied and resumed their arms, and Lafayette was at the head of 80,000 enrolled citizens and tradesmen of Paris, as its National Guard.—*Hone's Annals of the Revolution*.



Porte St. Martin, one of the earliest scenes of contest.

AUGUST.

The eighth was August, being rich array'd
In garment all of gold downe to the ground :
Yet rode he not, but led a lovely mayd
Forth by the lily hand, the which was crown'd
With eares of corne, and full her hand was found.
That was the righteous Virgin, which of old
Liv'd here on earth, and plenty made abound ;
But after wrong was lov'd, and justice solde,
She left th' unrighteous world, and was to heav'n extoll'd.
Spenser.

The virgin mentioned by the poet above alludes to the zodiacal sign of this month, which is *Virgo*. The name of August was given by the Senate of Rome, in honor of the Emperor Augustus. It was previously called *Sextilis*, at which period it was the sixth month of the year. The Romans placed this month under the protection of Ceres, the protector of corn and harvests.

Verstegan says the Saxons called August "*arn-monat*", intending thereby the then filling of their barns with corne." *Arn* is the Saxon word for harvest. Peacham thus delineates the month: "August shall bear the form of a young man of a fierce and choleric aspect, in a flame coloured garment; upon his head a garland of wheat and rie; upon his arm a basket of

all manner of ripe fruits, as peares, plums, apples, gooseberries: at his belt a sickle, bearing the sign *Virgo*."

1. LAMMAS-DAY.

The origin of the term *Lammas-Day* is enveloped in great doubt. Brand says: "Some derive it from *Lamb-Mass*, because on that day the tenants, who held lands under the cathedral church in York, which is dedicated to St. Peter ad Vincula, were bound by their tenure to bring a live lamb into the church at high mass: others derive it from a supposed offering or tything of lambs at this time." Another, and a more probable derivation, is from the old Saxon custom of *Loaf-mass*, which was an offering on this day of loaves made of new wheat, as the first fruits of their new corn.

6. TRANSFIGURATION.

This day commemorates the Transfiguration, or change of our Saviour's appearance, on Mount Tabor, in the presence of the apostles Peter, James, and John. The festival was first instituted in the year 700, and observed by the primitive Christians; but it was not introduced into the church of Rome till 1455, by Pope Calixtus III.

7. NAME OF JESUS.

This day was particularly observed in honor of our Saviour by the early Christians; though it was never introduced into the church of Rome. Its present name was given to it by the Reformers, who first assigned it a place in the English calender.

7. 1829. JOHN REEVES, M.A. F.R.S. & S.A.

DIED, ÆTAT. 77.

Mr. Reeves was educated at Eton and Oxford, and in 1778 took the degree of B.A. He afterwards determined on follow-

ing the profession of the law, and entering the Middle Temple, was called to the Bar in 1780. In the same year he was appointed a Commissioner of Bankrupts; and in 1791 Chief Justice of Newfoundland; from which situation, however, he returned the year following. About this period Republicanism was raging to an alarming extent, and Mr. Reeves formed a society at the Crown and Anchor Tavern in London, for the Preservation of the Constitution, upon the plan of which similar associations were formed throughout the kingdom. For this he gained the favour of Mr. Pitt, and was afterwards amply rewarded by being appointed King's Printer, in conjunction with Messrs. Eyre and Strahan, from which sinecure he derived immense profits.

He was the author of various pamphlets, &c.; among which are—*A History of the Law of Shipping and Navigation*; *A History of the Government of Newfoundland*; and *Considerations on the Coronation Oath*.

10. ST. LAWRENCE.

A Spaniard by birth, and treasurer of the church of Rome. On the execution of the pious Pope Sextus St. Lawrence attended and prayed with him in his dying moments, and also assisted the afflicted Christians all in his power, and among the poor ones distributed the church money with which he had been entrusted. For this he was summoned before Valerian, the prefect of Rome, and commanded to surrender the property with which he had been entrusted, in reply to which he said, "The opulence of the Christian church consists in its poor; take them, and afford them shelter; you will find their custody superior to all other riches." He was immediately tortured, and afterwards placed on a grid-iron over a slow fire till he was broiled to death, in the year 258.

"Philip II. of Spain, having won a battle on the

10th of August, the festival of St. Lawrence, vowed to consecrate a palace, a church, and a monastery, to his honor. He did erect the *Escuriel*, which is the largest palace in Europe. This immense quarry consists of several courts and quadrangles, all disposed in the shape of a gridiron*.”

13. 1792. QUEEN ADELAIDE BORN.

Adelaide Amelia Louisa Teresa Caroline, sister to the reigning Duke of Saxe Meiningen, was married to his present Majesty on the 11th of July, 1818.

14. 1829. ROBERT HAMILTON, L.L.D. DIED, ÆTAT. 86.

This scholar was a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, and Professor of Mathematics in the Mareschal College of Aberdeen, in which University he had been the long term of fifty years. His first chair was that of the Oriental languages; from which he was removed to that of Natural Philosophy in 1782, and finally, in 1817, to that of Mathematics. He was the author of *An Introduction to Merchandize*; *A System of Arithmetic and Bookkeeping*; *An Enquiry into the rise, progress, and redemption of the National Debt, &c.*

15. ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY.

This day is observed in the Romish and Greek churches, in memory of the assumption, or ascension, of the Virgin Mary into heaven.

21. 1765. KING WILLIAM IV. BORN.

HEALTH AND LONG LIFE TO THE KING!

Come, fill up a bumper, and join in the song,
And as for the frown of dull Care,
On those to whom Bacchus and bumpers belong,
I say, let him frown if he dare.

* Robinson's Ecclesiastical Researches.

Of wealth and of splendour I never could boast,
 Yet far away sorrow I fling,
 Whene'er, in my cups, I hurrah to the toast
 Of "Health and long life to the King!"

Ye may prattle and tell of the monarchs of France,
 Of Louis le bel and the rest;
 But, brave as they were, and true knights of the lance—
 How tarnished was often each crest!
 But *we* have a monarch, his people's just pride,
 And proud is the tribute they bring;
 As loudly the toast is encored far and wide,
 Of "Health and long life to the King!"

Ye may talk as ye will of the days of Queen Bess,
 When Drake claimed the sway of the seas;
 But is it, my lads, that *we* rule them the less,
 Beneath the broad banner of peace?
 So, leaving old times to take care of themselves,
 Of those that are passing we'll sing;
 And as for the future, we'll meet them ourselves
 With "Health and long life to the King!"

Then fill up a bumper and join in the song,
 And as for the frown of dull Care,
 On those to whom Bacchus and bumpers belong,
 I say, let him frown if he dare.
 Of wealth and of splendour I never could boast,
 Yet far away sorrow I fling;
 Whene'er, in my cups, I hurrah to the toast
 Of "Health and long life to the King!"

H. B.—Family Mag.

24. ST. BARTHOLOMEW.

He was one of the twelve apostles, and thought, by some, to be the same with Nathaniel, one of the first disciples who came to Christ. His proper name was Tholomew, or Tolmai. He translated St. Matthew's Gospel into the Indian language, and propagated it in

that part of the world. In his travels he visited Albania, a city upon the Caspian sea, where, in his endeavours to reform the people, he was arrested by order of the governor, and suffered martyrdom, by being flayed alive and crucified with his head downwards, about the year 72.

This day, in the year 1572, is rendered memorable in the annals of France, by its being the commencement of the horrid massacre in that country in the reign of Charles IX. : on which occasion, according to the statement of Perefixe, tutor to Louis XV. and archbishop of Paris, ten thousand were murdered in Paris, and ninety thousand in the provinces.

27. 1830. DUKE OF BOURBON DIED, ÆTAT. 75.

Louis Henry Joseph de Bourbon, Duke of Bourbon, and Prince de Condé, born April 13, 1756, was the father of the unfortunate Duke d'Enghéén, and only son of the illustrious Prince of Condé, who died in 1818. In due course he should have assumed the title, which, however, he declined, from a feeling of modesty, as not being worthy to succeed a prince of so high a personal character as his noble father, and as the prospects of his house were for ever extinguished by the murder of his only son.

On the breaking out of the revolution in 1789, the duke quitted France with the rest of the family of the Prince of Condé. In 1792, he returned to join his father, in whose campaigns against the republican forces he remained until 1796, when, in consequence of the peace between France and Austria, the troops of the prince passed into the service of Russia.

The duke and his father afterwards came to England, and took up their residence at Wanstead House, in Essex, but on the restoration of the Bourbons in 1814, he returned to France, where his life was passed in comparative retirement until his death. The unfortunate prince terminated his existence by hanging himself. He is supposed to have committed the fatal act while labouring under derangement, produced by the ex-

citement which the late revolution occasioned, of which, however, he seemed not to have disapproved. It appears, that he was sadly annoyed by some of the ex-functionaries of Charles X.; who had by letter, and in one instance personally, repudiated his claim to the name of Condé, reminding him how gloriously it had been sustained by his father, who had in the former revolution cast his shield before the fallen fortunes of the Bourbons, and made it the rallying point of the royalists, until their throne was re-established; again quitting the capital, though borne down by infirmity and the weight of years, with Louis XVIII. during the 100 days of Napoleon, rather than compromise his allegiance. Harassed thus on one side by the bigots of the old court, and on the other pressed to come in, and take the oath to the Orlean's dynasty, the individual members of which were his personal favourites, he weakly rushed out of existence, to escape these conflicting importunities. He had promised to repair to Paris, to take the oath, on the morning when he was found dead in his chamber. On the previous night, he desired his valet not to enter his apartment as early as usual; the man obeyed his master's order, but when two or three hours had elapsed after his usual time, and he had knocked repeatedly without obtaining an answer, he then, with the assistance of others, burst through the panel of the door, and found the unhappy prince suspended by his own neckerchief from the iron fastening of the window; he used a stool to stand upon, and then kicked it down. Thus perished the last member of the illustrious house of Condé.

28. ST. AUGUSTINE.

Augustine was born at Thagaste, in Africa, in the year 354. His parents, though poor, gave him a good education, and at the age of sixteen he went to Carthage to study the classics. He afterwards went to Rome and Milan, where he taught rhetoric with considerable success; and at the latter place formed an intimacy with St. Ambrose, from which period he devoted himself to the propagation of Christianity. In the year 388 he

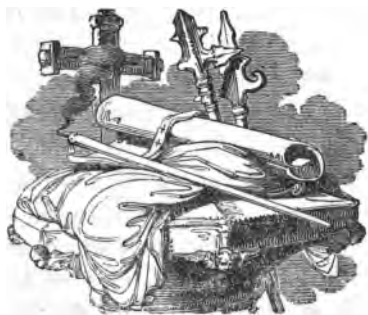
returned to his native country, and in 392 was appointed Bishop of Hippo, which he retained till the period of his death, which occurred in 430, at the advanced age of seventy-six. He was one of the most voluminous writers among the fathers of the church.

He was the founder of one of the oldest orders of monks, known by the name of The Hermits of St. Augustine, or, Austin Friars.

Mosheim says: "the fame of Augustin filled the whole Christian world; and not without reason, as a variety of great and shining qualities were united in his character. A sublime genius, an uninterrupted and zealous pursuit of truth, an indefatigable application, an invincible patience, a sincere piety, a subtle and lively wit, conspired to establish his fame upon the most lasting foundation.

29. ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST BEHEADED.

This day commemorates the decolation of St. John; and was formerly called "The Feast of gathering up St. John the Baptist's relics." (See page 108).



S E P T E M B E R.

The harvest-men ring Summer out
With thankful song, and joyous shout ;
And, when September comes, they hail
The Autumn with the flapping flail.

Hone.

SEPTEMBER received its present name in the time of Numa Pompilius, when it was the seventh month of the year, from *Septem*, seven, and *imber*, a shower, this being the beginning of the wet season. It afterwards received various names from the Emperors and Senators of Rome. The Senate wished to have given it the name of *Tiberius*, in honor of that Emperor, but he declined it. Domitian named it *Germanicus*, in honor of his having subdued the Germans. In commemoration of Antoninus Pius, the Senate called it *Antoninus*. Commodus called it *Herculeus*, after Hercules; and the Emperor *Tacitus* gave it his own name, because he became emperor this month. The Romans considered September under the protection of Vulcan.

Our Saxon ancestors, according to Verstegan, called this month “ *Gerst-monat*, for that barley, which that moneth commonly yeelded, was antiently called *gerst*, the name of barley being given unto it by reason of the drinke therewith made, called beere, and from *beerleg*h

it come to be *berleggh*, and from *berleggh* to barley. So in like manner *beereheym*, to wit, the overdecking or covering of *beere*, came to be called *berham*, and afterwards *barme*, having since gotten I wot not how many names beside. This excellent and healthsome liquor, *beere*, antiently also called *ael*, as of the Danes it yet is (*beere* and *ale* being in effect all one), was first of the Germans invented, and brought in use."

September is described by Peacham "with a merry and cheerful countenance, in a purple robe; upon his head a wreath of white and purple grapes; in his left hand a handful of millet oates, and panicle, withal carrying a cornucopia of ripe peaches, pearces, pomgranites, and other fruits of his season; in his right hand the sign *Libra*. His purple robe sheweth how he reigneth like a king above other moneths, abounding with plenty of things necessary for man's life." The sign *Libra* is now (as Sir P. Sidney saith) an indifferent arbiter between the day and night, poizing to each his equal hours, according to Virgil:—

"*Libra dies, somnique pares ubi fecerit horas.*"

1. ST. GILES,

A native of Athens, of noble family, who having disposed of his patrimony in charitable uses, went to France and lived with the Bishop of Arles two years. He then retired to a cell on the banks of the Rhone, where he became a hermit. Charles Martel, when hunting, accidentally found him, and was so pleased with his unaffected piety, that he erected an abbey at Nismes, of which Giles was made abbot. He died in 750.

2. 1666. LONDON BURNED.

This day was introduced into the calendar to commemorate the dreadful fire of London, which destroyed 13,200 houses and 89 churches.

5. 1829. COUNT DARU DIED, ETAT. 62.

Bonaparte, in speaking of the Count at St. Helena, said, "that he was as laborious as an ox, and as brave as a lion." He was formerly one of Napoleon's Intendant-Generals; but being removed from public employment after the Restoration, he occupied his retirement in writing a most extensive and learned *History of Venice*, a work that will always hold a high literary rank. His extensive capacity, and knowledge of government, induced the king to call him to the Chamber of Peers, in which station he highly distinguished himself.

7. ST. EUNERCHUS,

Bishop of Orleans, about the year 375, who, it is said, converted 7,000 infidels in three days; and found a pot of gold under the ruins of a church which was nearly sufficient to rebuild it. These appear the only reasons for giving him a place in the calendar.

8. NATIVITY OF THE VIRGIN MARY.

This day is observed in the Catholic Church in memory of the birth of the Virgin Mary. It was first appointed by Pope Servius, about the year 695.

14. HOLY CROSS.

This day was first introduced into the Romish Church, as a festival, in the year 615, to commemorate the recovery of the Cross, which Cosroes, King of Persia, had plundered from Jerusalem, but which he lost again on being defeated by the Emperor Heraclius, who bore it back again in triumph to the sacred city; into which, it is said, the Emperor entered, barefooted, bearing the

Cross upon his shoulders, in imitation of his Divine Master.

15. 1830. OPENING THE LIVERPOOL AND MANCHESTER RAILWAY.

This magnificent work of art was begun in June, 1826, and completed at an expense of about £900,000. Its extent is thirty-one miles, in the course of which there are sixty-three bridges, one of the extent of nine arches. The road formed across the swamps of Chat-Moss to the length of five miles and a half, is a wonderful triumph of enterprise and industry over difficulty. Before a Parliamentary Committee, Mr. Giles, a civil engineer, said, a road could never be formed over Chat-Moss, not even at a cost of £200,000.—It has, however, been effected at a less sum than £30,000.

The interesting ceremony of opening the Railway was rendered more splendid and imposing by the presence of the Duke of Wellington and many distinguished individuals, whom the directors had invited. The concourse of spectators at each end of the line was immense. The procession left Liverpool twenty minutes before eleven o'clock drawn by eight locomotive engines, the first of which was the Northumbrian, with the Directors and numerous distinguished visitors, including the Duke of Wellington. The other engines were the Phoenix, North Star, Rocket, Dart, Comet, Arrow, and Meteor. The carriage in which the Duke of Wellington and his friends travelled, was truly magnificent. The floor was 32 feet long by 8 wide, and was supported by eight large iron wheels. A grand canopy, 24 feet long, was placed aloft upon gilded pillars, contrived so as to be lowered in passing through the tunnel. The Northumbrian drew three carriages, the first containing the band, the second the Duke of Wellington and the distinguished visitors, and the third the Directors. The Phoenix and the North Star drew five carriages each; the Rocket drew three; and the Dart, Comet, Arrow, and Meteor, each four. The total number of persons conveyed was 772. On issuing from the smaller tunnel at Liverpool, the first engine, that is, the Northumbrian, took the south, or right-hand line of railway, while the other seven

engines proceeded along the south line. The procession did not proceed at a particularly rapid pace—not more than 15 or 16 miles an hour. In the course of the journey, the Northumbrian accelerated or retarded its speed occasionally, to give the Duke of Wellington an opportunity of inspecting the most remarkable parts of the work. On the arrival of the procession at Parkside, (a little on this side of Newton) the carriages stopped to take in a supply of water. Before starting from Liverpool, the company were particularly requested not to leave the carriages, and the same caution was repeated in the printed directions describing the order of procession. Notwithstanding this regulation, however, Mr. Huskisson, Mr. Wm. Holmes, M.P., and other gentlemen, alighted from the carriage of the Duke of Wellington, when the Northumbrian stopped at Parkside. At the moment they descended into the road, three of the engines on the other line—the Phoenix, the North Star, and the Rocket, were rapidly approaching. Mr. Huskisson and Mr. Holmes were standing in the road between the two lines of railway, which are about four feet distant from each other. Unluckily, Mr. Huskisson imagining that there was not room for a person to stand between the lines while the other engines were passing, made an attempt to get again into the carriage of the Duke before the Dart came up. He laid hold of the door of the carriage, and pulled it open with so much force that he lost his balance, and fell backwards across the rails of the other line, the moment before the passing of the Dart. The conductor of that engine immediately stopped it, but before that could be effected, both wheels of the engine, and one of those of the first carriage, passed over the leg of the unfortunate gentleman, which was placed over the rail, his head and body being under the engine. The right leg was frightfully shattered, the muscles being torn to pieces. The Earl of Wilton, Mr. Holmes, and Mr. Parks, solicitor, of Birmingham, raised Mr. Huskisson from the ground. The only words he uttered were;—"I have met my death—God forgive me!" A tourniquet was immediately applied by the Earl of Wilton; and Dr. Brandreth was quickly in attendance. He was then removed to a car, and carried to Eccles, a village within four miles of Manchester; and after his arrival there, was removed

to the house of the Rev. Mr. Blackburn, the rector of that place, where the Right Hon. Gentleman expired between nine and ten o'clock the same evening.

After the above melancholy accident, a question arose as to what ought to be done with regard to the further progress of the business of the day. The Duke of Wellington refused to proceed further. Some of the proprietors and directors insisted that they had a public duty to perform in carrying the day's proceedings to an end, and that the success of the project, on which they had expended so much capital, might depend on their being regularly finished. They contended, moreover, that the procession *must go on* to Manchester, if they wished to avoid a breach of the public tranquillity. The Duke's scruples ultimately gave way, and the order was issued to move on to Manchester. On its return the Duke of Wellington quitted the rail-road about three miles before the cortege reached Liverpool, and posted off to the Marquis of Salisbury's seat at Childwell. The splendid corporation dinner which had been prepared at Liverpool was suspended; and nothing was heard spoken of but the above melancholy event.*

* Among other arguments used in favour of the railway was the following, from *A History of the Liverpool and Manchester Railway, &c. &c.*, published by Mr. Henry Booth, Treasurer to the Company, which shows the astonishing alteration in the state of trade in Manchester and Liverpool in a short number of years:—

The great canal proprietors, who for nearly a century have had the charge of the conveyance of merchandise between Liverpool and Manchester, are the Mersey and Irwell (more commonly called the Old Quay) Company, and the trustees of the Duke of Bridgewater's Canal. The Mersey and Irwell Company obtained their first Act of Parliament in 1733, and the Duke of Bridgewater his in 1760. Mr. Booth takes it for granted that at this latter period the trade of Liverpool had so far increased, as to render expedient the establishment of a *second means of conveyance*, namely, the Bridgewater Canal; and he proceeds to show, that between 1760 and 1824 the increase in the trade of the district, and the inconveniences to which it was subjected, were such as to render a *third line of communication advisable*, and that that third communication should be a railway. In 1760, 2,560 vessels paid dock duties

15. 1830. WILLIAM HUSKISSON, M. P. DIED,
ÆTAT. 60.

This distinguished statesman was born at Birch Moreton, in Worcestershire, on the 12th of March, 1769. His mother was niece to Dr. Gem, an eminent physician, who accompanied the Duke of Bedford on his embassy to Paris in 1782. On the death of Mrs. Huskisson, the subject of this sketch, at the age of thirteen, was sent to his great uncle, with the intention of being brought up to the profession of physic, and ultimately succeeding Dr. Gem in his practice. The French Revolution commenced whilst Mr. Huskisson was in Paris, and he was present at the taking of the Bastile. He was at that time but nineteen, and with all the ardour natural to his years he entered into the feelings of the popular party, and became a warm supporter of principles and theories, which subsequent experience, and a more matured mind, taught him to regard as visionary and dangerous. His knowledge of national policy and commerce having attracted the notice of Lord Gower, the British Ambassador, to whom he had been introduced by Dr. Gem, his lordship made him his Secretary, and from that period he totally abandoned his medical studies. On the recal of the embassy in 1792, Mr. Pitt appointed him to an office to investigate the claims of the French Refugees. In 1795 he became Under Secretary of State, and the following year was

at Liverpool; in 1824, 10,000; and in 1829, 11,383:—in 1760, the population of Liverpool was 26,000; in 1824, 135,000; the population of Manchester being in 1760, 22,000; in 1824, 135,000:—in 1784, 8 bags of cotton were imported into Liverpool from America; in 1824, 409,670 bags; and in 1829, 640,268. In 1790, the first steam-engine was set up in Manchester; in 1824, there were 200 steam-engines there:—in 1814, there was not one power-loom in Manchester; in 1824, there were 30,000. In 1824, the average quantity of raw and manufactured goods transmitted between the two towns was 1900 tons daily, and it now amounts to 1300 tons; about 1000 of which pass from Liverpool to Manchester, and 300 from Manchester to Liverpool. The bulk of this immense traffic was carried by means of the two canals before mentioned.

returned to Parliament for Morpeth. On the retirement of Mr. Pitt, in 1801, Mr. Huskisson lost his office, but in 1804, on the return of the Premier, he was made one of the Secretaries of the Treasury. On the death of the Minister, in 1806, he retired from office, which however he resumed again under Mr. Perceval the year following. In 1809 he again retired with Mr. Canning, and remained out of the administration till 1823, when he was made Treasurer of the Navy and President of the Board of Trade. His last situation was as Secretary for the Colonies, which he received in 1827, and resigned in 1828, in consequence of some difference with the Duke of Wellington. He was first returned to Parliament for Liverpool in 1823, and no member could have been more popular with his constituents. The circumstances attending his melancholy death we have already recorded, and it only remains for us to say that he was interred in the new cemetery at Liverpool on the 24th of September. The funeral was a public one, and all business in the town was suspended for the day.

17. ST. LAMBERT,

Bishop of Maestrecht, who being expelled from his see, retired to the monastery of Havelo, where he continued seven years. King Pepin afterwards restored him to his bishopric, the duties of which, he performed with zeal and ability. He was murdered during some public disturbances in France, on this day, in the year 709. In 1240, his festival was first ordained to be kept.

18. 1830. WILLIAM HAZLITT DIED.

This miscellaneous writer was the son of a dissenting Minister, and born in Shropshire. He was educated at the Unitarian College at Hackney, on leaving which he commenced his studies for the profession of painting, but fearing he should never attain a pre-eminence in this branch of the arts, he forsook the pencil for the pen, and about the year 1809 obtained a situation as Parliamentary reporter on a daily paper.

His first acknowledged literary production was *An Essay on the Principles of Human Action*; this was followed at subsequent periods by *The Eloquence of the British Senate*; *An Improved English Grammar*; *The Round Table*, a series of Essays, written in conjunction with Leigh Hunt; *Characters of Shakspeare's Plays*; *A View of the English Stage*; *Lectures on English Poetry*, delivered at the Surry Institution; *Table Talk*; *The Spirit of the Age*; *The Plain Speaker*; *Notes of a Journey through France and Italy*; *Political Essays and Sketches*; *British Galleries of Art*; *Lectures on the English Comic Writers*; *The Literature of the Elizabethian Age*; *The Modern Pygmalion*; *Conversations of James Northcote, R.A.*; *Life of Napoleon Bonaparte*; numerous papers in the *Edinburgh Review*, the *Supplement to the Encyclopædia Britannica*, various Magazines and Newspapers, &c. &c.

Mr. Hazlitt died poor, at his lodgings in Frith Street, Soho. His character was much maligned by party feeling during his life: it has, however, had some justice done to it by a cotemporary, who says:—

“ Much has been said of the caustic bitterness of his style when occasion demanded it, and the public have not hesitated to ascribe it to his natural disposition. The inference was hasty and erroneous. Hazlitt was mild, even to a child's temper; he was self-willed, but who needed to have drawn out the venom? Had he been suffered to pursue his career at his ease, he would not have afforded grounds for charging malignity upon him. The malignity grew up elsewhere, and extracted from him all the gall that was in his heart. For some unaccountable reason, which Hazlitt could never fathom, Blackwood's Magazine took an extraordinary pleasure in ridiculing him. They went beyond ridicule—they made him appear all that was base in public and private, until at last his fame became a sort of dangerous notoriety. It was not surprising that a man of Hazlitt's solitary habits should feel and resent this in his brooding moods. He did resent it, and fearfully, and the passion of revenge was instilled into his being, subdued only by the imperious presence of philosophy.

“ When you were first introduced to Hazlitt, with this pre-

vious impression of his bold character on your mind, you were disappointed or astonished to meet an individual nervous, low-spoken, and feeble, who lived on tea as a regimen. There was not a particle of energy about him ordinarily. His face, when at repose, had none of the marks of extraordinary intellect, or even of animation. The common expression was that of pain, or rather the traces left by pain. It was languor and inertion. But when he kindled, a flush mantled over his sunken cheeks, his eyes lighted up wildly, his chest expanded, he looked like one inspired, his motions were eloquent, and his whole form partook of the enthusiasm. This is commonly the case with men of genius, but it was so in a remarkable degree with him. His conversation, generally, was ragged in expression, exceedingly careless as to phraseology, and not always clear in purport. He used the most familiar words, and, for ease sake, fell into conventional turns of language to save himself the trouble of explanation. This was not so, however, when he grew warmed. Then he sometimes mounted into sublime flights. But his conversational powers were, at the best, below his literary capacity.

“As a periodical writer, for the reasons we have stated, Hazlitt was unable to sustain any rank. The best articles of that kind for which we are indebted to his pen, are to be found in the *Edinburgh Review*, where he had scope to enlarge upon his principles of taste and his political theories. Of his dramatic criticisms it may be remarked, that they cannot claim to be considered as being comprehensive. He could not read enough to make them so. But they are acute, sound, and in a philosophical spirit. Few had a higher zest for the poetry of the drama, but he did not permit it to develope itself freely. He warped and narrowed it. Taking a single point of beauty, he followed it up into all its aspects, but had no relish for judging by the context. His criticisms on the Fine Arts are more elaborate and liberal. There all was contemplation, and he could master it. The subject required no aids from drudgery in the library, and happened to fall in felicitously with his tastes.

“But the work by which Hazlitt will be remembered, and through which he desired to transmit his name and his opinions

to posterity, is his Life of Napoleon Bonaparte. It was the greatest undertaking in which he ever engaged. It exhibits his powerful mind in a position most favourable for its display; and presents an imperishable record of the strength and versatility of his genius."

21. ST. MATTHEW.

He was supposed to have been born in Galilee, where he followed the business of a publican, or gatherer of taxes for the Romans, an office, odious in the sight of the Jews. Our Saviour saw Matthew sitting at the receipt of customs, and called on him to forsake his situation and follow him. He afterwards became an Apostle, and about the year 64 or 65, wrote his Gospel. After a life of many labors and miracles, he died at Madabar, in Ethiopia, probably by martyrdom.

26. ST. CYPRIAN.

He was born at Carthage, in Africa, of which place he was made bishop, in the year 248; at which period he gave all his property to the poor. During the persecution of Dioclesian, he behaved with great firmness, and publicly exhorted the Christians to persevere in their faith. This so enraged the Pagans, that they took Cyprian, with St. Justina, to the banks of the river Gallus, near the city of Nicomedia, and beheaded them.

29. ST. MICHAEL.

This festival was first celebrated in Apulia, in 493, in honor of St. Michael, and all his angels. In many parts of the world, the churches, dedicated to this saint, are built on very lofty eminences, in allusion, it is said, to this Angel's having been the highest of the heavenly host. St. Michael's Mount in Cornwall, and that in Normandy, are confirmations of this remark.

From St. Michael, is derived the name MICHAELMAS DAY, an established period for settling quarterly rents,

and formerly conspicuous for the hospitality of landlords, who commonly entertained their tenants with geese, then only kept by opulent persons. They have now, however, become a common dish at this season, and

At Michaelmas, by custom right divine,
Geese are ordained to bleed at Michael's shrine.

The custom of eating geese, at this season, has been by some attributed to Queen Elizabeth, who annually had one for dinner on this day in commemoration of the defeat of the Spanish Armada; but it is of older origin, for in 1470, John de la Hay, took of William Barnaby, Lord of Lastres, in the county of Hereford, one parcel of the land of that demesne, rendering twenty-pence a year, and one *goose*, fit for the lord's dinner on the feast of St. Michael, with suit of court and other services.

30. ST. JEROME.

This eminently learned and eloquent man was born at Stridonium, now Idigni, a small town upon the confines of Pannomia, Dalmatia, and Italy, near Aquilea. Having received a liberal education, he paid particular attention to the study of rhetoric in the hopes of enforcing the doctrines of Christianity with more force than they received from most of its unlearned disciples. He afterwards applied himself very closely to the study of Hebrew; and whilst living in a monastery at Bethlehem, translated the Old Testament into Latin, which is now called the Vulgate, and the only version allowed to be used by the Romish Church. It has the honor of being the first work ever printed: the first edition being in 1450, and the second edition in 1462. His writings are very numerous, forming eleven folio volumes. He died of a fever, in the year 420, at the advanced age of about ninety.

OCTOBER.

There are vapours on the sky,
When the day-break opes its eye ;
There are vapours round the sun,
Ere the hastening day is done :
Yet, October, pale and sere,
Thou to me of all the year,
Now declining to its rest,
Art the loveliest, sweetest, best ;
To the spirit's musings holy,
Gentle month of melancholy.

Literary Souvenir.

THIS was the eighth month in the calendar of Romulus, as its name implies, being derived from *Octo*, eight, and *Imber*. It became the tenth month in the time of Numa Pompilius. Various attempts were made by the Emperors and Senates of Rome to alter its name, and at different periods it received the name of *Faustinus*, in honor of Faustina, the wife of Emperor Antoninus ; Commodus gave it the name of *Invictus*, and Domitian christened it *Domitianus*, after himself. These names, however, were soon discontinued, and the old name of October retained. The Romans placed this month under the protection of Mars, to whom they sacrificed a horse on the fifteenth day : when a race was run with chariots, drawn by two horses, the swiftest of whom was adjudged to be the victim.

M

From our Saxon ancestors, Vestigan says: "October has the name of *Wyn* (wine) *Monat*; and albeit, they had not antiently wines made in Germany, yet in this season had they them from divers countries adjoining."

Peacham delineates October, "in a garment of yellow and carnation, upon his head a garland of oake leaves, with the acorns; in his right hand the sign Scorpion; in his left, a basket of services, medlars, and chesnuts, and other fruits, that ripen at the latter time of the year; his robe is of the color of the leaves and flowers decaying."

1. ST. REMIGIUS,

The Apostle of the French Church, as he is usually called, was born at Landen, in France, where he pursued his studies with great assiduity, and followed a monastic life, until, from his exemplary piety and great learning, he was chosen bishop of Rheims. He converted King Clodeveus, and many of his subjects, to Christianity, and after filling the see of Rheims, with the greatest credit, for seventy-four years, he died at the advanced age of ninety-six, in 533.

6. ST. FAITH.

Faith, or Fides, was born at Agen, in Aquitain, and though of exquisite beauty, was insensible to all worldly allurements. After undergoing many tortures for refusing to sacrifice to the idols, she, with a number of other Christians, was beheaded by order of Dacian, prefect of Gaul, in the year 290.

6. 1829. JONATHAN WILSON DIED, *ÆTAT.* 52; A celebrated die-sinker and medallist, who resided thirty years in Sheffield, during which his designs for cutlery and

silver plate contributed greatly to increase the demand for those manufactures. He was the first person who introduced the art of embossing horn; and was a self-taught artist. In the early part of his life he studied with the eminent sculptor, Chantrey.

9. ST. DENYS,

Or rather Dionysius, the patron saint of France, was bishop of Paris, and died in the year 272.

13. TRANSLATION OF KING EDWARD THE CONFESSOR,

The youngest son of King Etheldred, who succeeded to the throne of England in 1042, and died in 1066. He was canonized after his death, for his Christian and moral virtues. The splendid Abbey of Westminster was commenced by this king, and his crown, chair, staff, spurs, &c., are still used at our coronations.

15. 1829. GEORGE DAWE, R.A. DIED.

This eminent painter was a member of the Imperial and Royal Academies of Arts, at St. Petersburg, Stockholm, Florence, &c., and First Painter to the Emperor of Russia, &c. In 1807 he published a *Life of George Morland*, in which it is stated, that his father, Philip Dawe, was articled to Morland's father, who was a painter in crayons.

From 1809, to 1818, he was a constant exhibiter at Somerset House, and in 1814 was chosen a Royal Academician. For several years he had resided entirely upon the Continent, where he found ample employment for his talent; and painted the principal sovereigns of Europe, by which, it is said, he realised about £100,000. About six weeks after his return to England he died of a disease of the lungs, and his remains were deposited in St. Paul's Cathedral, being followed thither by a number of artists and literary men; the Russian Ambassador and Sir Thomas Lawrence, acting as pall bearers.

17. ST. ETHELDREDA,

The pious daughter of Annas, King of the East Angles, was born about the year 690, at Ixning, a

small village in Suffolk. Although married she lived a life of continency, and on the death of her husband, she retired to the monastery of Coldingham, beyond Berwick, in 672. The year following, she returned to the Isle of Ely, where she founded a church and monastery, and died in the year 679.

18. ST. LUKE THE EVANGELIST,

A native of Antioch, in Syria, where he acquired his early learning, which he improved by going into Greece and Egypt. He is said to have been a painter; but Dr. Lardner is of opinion that he was a physician, which is in part borne out by the passage in Collosians, Cap. iv. ver. 14, where he is called "beloved physician." He died at the age of eighty-four, about the year 63.

25. ST. CRISPIN.

Crispin and Crispinian, were brothers, and born at Rome, whence they travelled to Soissons, in France, about the year 304, to propagate the Christian religion. Being desirous of rendering themselves independent, they obtained a subsistence by shoemaking. It having been discovered that they privately embraced the Christian faith, the governor of the town ordered them to be beheaded, about the year 308.

The shoemakers chose them for their tutelar saints, and from time immemorial that fraternity have kept this day as a holiday.

Shakspeare has perpetuated the memory of this festival by the speech which he has given to Henry the Fifth, before the battle of Agincourt:

This day is called the feast of Crispian:

He that outlives this day, and comes safe home,

Will stand a tiptoe when this day is named,

And rouse him at the name of Crispian :
He that shall live this day, and see old age,
Will yearly, on the vigil, feast his neighbours,
And say, Tomorrow is St. Crispian.
Then will he strip his sleeve and show his scars :
Old men forget ; yet shall not all forget,
But they'll remember, with advantages,
What feats they did that day. Then shall our names
Familiar in the mouth as household words,
Harry the King, Bedford and Exeter,
Warwick and Talbot, Salisbury and Glos'ter,
Be in their flowing cups freshly remembered.
This story shall the good man teach his son,
And Crispin Crispian shall ne'er go by,
From this day to the ending of the world,
But we in it shall be remembered ;
We few, we happy few, we band of brothers ;
For he to day that sheds his blood with me,
Shall be my brother ; be he ne'er so vile,
This day shall gentle his condition.
And gentlemen of England, now a-bed,
Shall think themselves accursed they were not here ;
And hold their manhoods cheap while any speaks
That fought with us upon St. Crispian's day.

26. 1829. JOSEPH MAWE DIED, *ÆTAT* 74.

One of the most celebrated mineralogists, geologists and conchologists of the age. His first introduction to the scientific world, was by publishing *The Mineralogy of Derbyshire*, a work of much useful information. He afterwards undertook a commercial voyage to Rio de la Plata. On his arrival at Monte Video, his ship and cargo were seized ; and on the appearance of General Beresford, he was banished into the interior. When he had recovered his liberty, he went to Brazil, where he was graciously received by the Prince Regent, afterwards John VI. of Portugal. By that prince he was employed in 1810, to investigate the mineralogical riches—the extensive gold and diamond districts—and the agricultural state of the empire of

Brazil. He was the first Englishman who had ever been so engaged ; and his task was most ably performed. On his return to England in 1812, he published his *Travels in the interior of Brazil*, which ranks among the valuable works of its class, and has been published in America, and translated into French, Swedish, German, Russian, Portuguese, Brazilian, and nearly all the continental languages.

In 1813 he published a *Treatise on Diamonds and Precious Stones*, and subsequently *Familiar Lessons on Mineralogy and Geology* ; an *Introduction to the Study of Conchology* ; the *Shell collecting Pilot* ; and several other works of much merit and utility.

28. ST. SIMON AND ST. JUDE.

St. Simon is styled the Canaanite, from the Hebrew *Canā*, to be zealous ; hence his name Simeon Zelotes, or the Zealot. He suffered martyrdom on the cross, with the greatest composure, after much persecution and suffering.

Of St. Jude very little is known. Bishop Tomlin observes, " that there is not a single circumstance recorded of him, in any ancient author, upon which we can depend." It is not certain when he was called to be an apostle, but after his zealous ministry, he was put to death for a reproof of the superstitious rites of the Magi.

JOHN ANSTIE, ÆTAT. 88;

An extensive woollen manufacturer at Devizes, to whom that branch of trade is greatly indebted for its extension and subsequent prosperity, through the introduction of improved machinery. His ingenuity and knowledge of the varieties of wool first suggested its combination with silk in the manufacture of fancy cloths, which he introduced, and finally perfected, to the exclusion of foreign competition.

NOVEMBER.

November's sky is chill and drear,
November's leaf is red and sear.

Sir Walter Scott.

NOVEMBER, the eleventh month of the Julian and the ninth of the Romulean year, has but once changed its name, in the time of Commodus, who altered it to *Kxuperatorius*, which it retained only whilst the tyrant existed. Diana was the protecting deity of this month with the Romans.

Speaking of the Saxons, Verstegan says: "November they termed *wint-monat*, to wit, wind-moneth, whereby wee may see that our ancestors were in this season of the yeere made acquainted with blustering Boreas; and it was the ancient custome for shipmen then to shrowd themselves at home, and to give over sea-faring (notwithstanding the littlenesse of their then used voyages) untill blustering March had bidden them wele to fare."

This month, says Peacham, "is clothed in a garment of changeable green and black; upon his head a garland of olives, with the fruit; in his left hand bunches of parseneps and turneps; in his right the sign *Sagitaris*."

1. ALL SAINTS.

The festival of All-Hallow, or All Saints, was instituted by Pope Boniface IV. to celebrate all those saints

who had not particular days allotted to them in the calendar. It originated in a gift of the Roman Pantheon, a Pagan temple, by the emperor Phocas, about the year 610, to the Pope, who dedicated it to the purposes of this day.

The eve of this day is called *Hallow-e'en*, and many superstitious practices are still prevalent in parts of England and in Scotland.

2. ALL SOULS.

This festival was first instituted by Odilon, abbot of Cluny, in the eleventh century, in commemoration of all the faithful deceased, and for a general prayer for those souls who are detained in purgatory.

3. 1777. PRINCESS SOPHIA BORN.

The youngest sister of his present Majesty.

4. 1688. KING WILLIAM III. LANDED.

The calendar commits an annual falsehood by placing this event on this day. The King sailed from Holland on the 1st, passed Dover and Calais on the 3rd, and wished to land on the 4th, it being the anniversary of his birth as well as of his marriage, by which he would have added another important event to the day. Adverse winds, however, prevented his landing until the 5th.

5. 1605. POWDER PLOT.

This day commemorates the discovery of the attempt of Guy Fawkes and his companions to blow up the Parliament House.

6. ST. LEONARD.

He was a French nobleman at the court of Clovis I.; and, in the flower of his age, was converted to the faith by St. Remigius, whose constant disciple he became.

He preached the Gospel some time, but being importuned by the king to return to court, he retired privately into the territory of Orleans, where St. Maximin governed the monastery of Nice. In this house St. Leonard took the religious habit, but leaving the monastery, he retired to a forest four leagues from Limoges, where he built himself an oratory, and lived upon wild herbs and fruits. He died about the year 559.

8. 1768. PRINCESS AUGUSTA SOPHIA BORN.

The eldest sister of his present Majesty.

9. LORD MAYOR'S DAY.

This day the Lord Mayor of the city of London enters on the duties of his office. Until the year 1830, during several centuries, it continued one of annual civic pageantry. In that year, however, the usual "show" was suddenly abandoned from the following cause:

Their Majesty's having promised to dine with the Lord Mayor, &c. at the Guildhall, on this day, great and extravagant preparations were made for their reception. The hall was fitted up in the most sumptuous style: the whole of the walls, to a certain height, were covered with crimson drapery. The throne, at the head of the hall, was a splendid object; and the drapery round it gave the most exquisite relief to the dazzling splendour of the crown placed above. The walls of the hustings were covered with enormous pier glasses, the effect of which, when the lights were burning, can only be conceived by recalling to mind some of the gorgeous scenes of Eastern romance. The walls at the bottom of the hall were also covered with pier glasses. Added to this, the streets through which the royal and civic cavalcade were to pass were splendidly decorated with illuminations and transparencies. After all these preparations were completed, a notice was issued, that his Majesty's visit was "postponed." This hasty determination was made in consequence of a very honest com-

munication from the Lord Mayor elect, (John Key, Esq.) to the Duke of Wellington, suggesting to his Grace the propriety "of going properly and sufficiently guarded." This led to a meeting of ministers, and as they had received other communications from various quarters, all bearing the same import, they very judiciously advised his Majesty not to endanger the lives of any of his subjects by attending on this occasion. Had not this course been adopted, it is more than probable that much mischief would have ensued. The streets were to have been lined with soldiers and constables, so that the space for the populace would have been very prescribed; and when we reflect on the mass which such an occasion would collect together, we may naturally infer that the rush which curiosity would have impelled, on the approach of the cavalcade, might have been the cause of some fatal consequences. We say nothing of the disaffected portion of the people, of whom the number is not insignificant, as every one is now convinced from the disturbed and distressed state of the country.

Fearing the agitated state of the public mind might vent its disappointment on the "Show," the civic authorities very properly withdrew, for the first time, their annual pageant. It, perhaps, might be as well to make this an opportunity for discontinuing so useless an expenditure of public money.

9. 1829. EUGENIUS ROCHE DIED, *ÆTAT.* 43.

Mr. Roche was born in Dublin, and educated in France, whither his father emigrated when Eugenius was only two years old. At the age of eighteen he came to London to gain a subsistence by the precarious profession of literature. Before he was twenty, however, he obtained the editorship of the *Day Newspaper*: after which he became editor of the *National Register*, and subsequently of a Magazine called *Literary Recreations*, in which appeared some of the earliest productions of Lord Byron and Allan Cunningham. Byron's verses, beginning with "There is a mystic thread of life," were enclosed to the editor in a note, stating, that if they were deemed worthy of insertion, they were at his service; and, if inserted, his Lordship requested some copies of the magazine might be

sent to him. He was afterwards engaged on the *Morning Post*, and after a lapse of twenty years returned to the *Day*, the title of which had changed to the *New Times*. Having purchased a share in the *Courier*, he was editor of that paper at the time of his death. He was the author of two unacted plays and a set of French melodies.

11. ST. MARTIN.

He was born in Hungary in 316, and after having followed the profession of a soldier, took orders, and was made Bishop of Tours in France about the year 374. He continued in his see, with great credit to himself, till the period of his death in 397.

The vulgar phrase, *My eye, Betty Martin*, is a corruption of the commencement of a prayer to this saint—*Mihi, beate Martine*.

13. ST. BRITIUS.

Britius, or Brice, succeeded St. Martin in the see of Tours. His early life was spent in idleness and pride, but, repenting his error, he afterwards devoted his life to those studies which raised him to the bishopric. He died in the year 444.

15. ST. MACHUTUS.

Machutus, or Malo, or Maclou, was born at Llanca-roon in Glamorganshire. He retired to the continent with the intention of leading the life of a recluse, but being conspicuous for his piety, he was solicited to accept the bishopric of Aleth, since called St. Malo, in honor of our saint. He died in the year 564.

16. 1830. RESIGNATION OF MINISTERS.

On this day the administration, under the Duke of Wellington, resigned their offices, in which they were succeeded by the present ministry, led by Earl Grey.

17. ST. HUGH, BISHOP OF LINCOLN.

He was born in Burgundy in the year 1140, and in 1186 became bishop of Lincoln, through the favor of Henry the Second. He obtained great fame by the austerity and economy of his life, and his rebuilding the cathedral; in which work, Dr. Milner affirms, he carried many of the stones and mortar to the workmen. He died in the year 1200.

20. ST. EDMUND, KING AND MARTYR,

The last tutelar king of the East Angles, who having been attacked by the Danes, in 870, and unable to resist them, heroically offered to surrender himself a prisoner, provided they would spare his subjects. The Danes, however, having seized him, used their utmost endeavours to induce Edmund to renounce his religion: but, refusing to comply, they first beat him with clubs, then scourged him with whips, and afterwards, binding him to a stake, killed him with their arrows. His body was buried in a town where Sigebert, one of his predecessors, had built a church, and where, afterwards, in honour of his name, a more splendid edifice was erected, which was named St. Edmund's Bury, now called Bury St. Edmund's.

20. 1829. BARRY ST. LEGER DIED, ÆTAT. 30.

Francis Barry Boyle St. Leger was born in Ireland, and educated at Rugby school. At the early age of seventeen he went to India, where he had the prospect of high rank; the customs of the country, and the tyranny and injustice of the Eastern government, however, so ill accorded with his notions of freedom and liberty, that he sacrificed his independence of fortune to the independence of principle, and returned to England. He now turned his attention to the bar, and entered the Inner Temple. At this period he commenced his literary

labours, by writing for various periodical publications : and became editor of a quarterly publication, entitled the *Album*. In 1823 he produced *Gilbert Eurlé*, which at once ranked him deservedly high among writers of fiction. The popularity he thus attained induced him to proceed in the same path, and *Blount's Manuscripts*, and *Tales of Passion*, were the result.

Literature, however, was never suffered to interfere with his professional studies : and in 1827 he was called to the bar. He was making considerable progress in his circuit towards legal eminence, when he was seized with a fit of epilepsy, supposed to have been produced by a too constant exertion of mind ; and, after lingering about five months, died at a period when the brightest prospects surrounded him.

Mr. St. Leger had determined to write no more works of fiction, but to devote his leisure to historical composition. With this view, he had nearly completed a work founded upon the Old Chronicles, and was proceeding with Histories of the Wars in Spain, and of the Revolution in France ; both intended for the publications of the Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge.

22. ST. CECILIA,

A Roman lady, of good family, who was early converted to the faith, and made a vow of virginity when very young. She was, however, forcibly compelled to marry Valerian, whom she immediately converted, together with his brother, Tiburtius, and another. They were all persecuted and suffered martyrdom, about the year 230.

She is regarded as the patroness of music, from tradition having recorded that an angel, who visited her, was drawn down from heaven by the charms of her melody.

ON A PICTURE OF SAINT CECILIA.

BY T. K. HERVEY.

Her hair streams backwards like a cloud
Before the sun-light of her eyes,
That seem to pierce the fleecy shroud
Of the far, blue Italian skies!—
Her hands amid the golden strings
Play, like a spirits' wanderings;
Still making music as they stray,
And scattering incense on the way!—
And softest harpings float around,
That make the chamber hallowed ground;
Till every breeze that wanders by
Seems holy with the maiden's sigh,
And seraph-forms come stealing down
To hear a music like their own!

Her robe is of the same pure white
Whose silver skirts yon azure sky;—
Her form is like a form of light,—
But all the woman dims her eye
With tears that dare to look to heaven,
And tears that mount—and are forgiven!—
Deep in her warm and holy heart,
Are thoughts that play a mortal part,
And her young worship wafts above
The breathings of an *earthly* love!

Of *earth*—yet not a love that flings
One clog upon her spirit's wings;
Or, like a shadow, dimly lies
Upon her pure heart's sacrifice!
The lark may—like that spirit—play
In the blue heavens, the livelong day,
And He who gave that sunny thing
A mounting—yet a wearying—wing,

Will not refuse its morning flight
Because it stooped to earth by night ;—
Nor shall the maiden's offering rise
Less stainless to her native skies,
Because the youthful *saint* reveals
The throbbings which the *woman* feels,
And pours to heaven her worship, fraught
With passion which itself had taught !
The notes fall fainter on the ear,
Yet, still, the seraph leans to hear ;—
Though sorrow sighs along the lyre,
And woman's fears have dimmed her fire ;
And breathings meant for God alone,
Echo some pulses of her own !—
The angel stays—and stays to bless
Love—which itself is holiness !

23. ST. CLEMENT.

He was the son of Faustinus, and was converted to the faith, by St. Peter and St. Paul. He was a Roman, and as he himself says, of the race of Jacob. He wrote two excellent Epistles to the Corinthians, found in the Alexandrian manuscript of the Bible. St. Clement succeeded St. Cletus, in the apostolical chair of Rome, in the year 91, and reigned nine years. Eusebius says, he died in the year 100, the reign of Trajan, others affirm that he was thrown into the sea, with an anchor about his neck. In allusion to this, the anchor is to be seen about several parts of the church of St. Clement's Danes, London.

25. ST. CATHERINE.

She was born at Alexandria, and in the year 305 disputed with fifty heathen philosophers, all of whom she converted to the Christian faith. For this offence, the Emperor, Maxentius, had her thrown into prison.

Here her eloquence converted the Empress, and one of the generals, which so enraged the Emperor, that he ordered her to be tortured with four cutting wheels, in which were saws, sharp knives, and nails, which turning one against the other, met, and tore her body in several places. She was afterwards beheaded.

The Catherine Wheel, used as a sign to public houses, and as a name to a firework, derived their origin from the above instrument of torture.

27. ADVENT SUNDAY,

The last Sunday in November, and the fourth before Christmas. It signifies the Advent, or Hithercoming of our Saviour.

30. ST. ANDREW.

The son of James, a fisherman of Bethsaida, and younger brother of Peter. He was a disciple of John the Baptist, and follower of Jesus. Whilst on his travels to propagate the Gospel, he endeavoured to convert the pro-consul Egeus, at Patræ, who caused him to be arrested and crucified.

1829. REV. THOMAS BELSHAM DIED, ÆTAT 80; An eminent unitarian minister, and brother to William Belsham the historian. In early life he spent many years as tutor in the dissenting academy at Daventry; but inclining to unitarianism, he resigned his situation in 1789, and removed to the new college at Hackney, whence he succeeded Dr. Priestly in 1794 at the unitarian chapel near that village. In 1808 he left this charge for the pulpit of Essex Street chapel in the Strand, vacated by the death of Dr. Lindsay. He published a great number of sermons and pamphlets, which will always rank him as an able and powerful advocate of the unitarian doctrine.

He had entirely resigned his ministerial duties for some years, and retired to the beautiful village of Hampstead, where he closed his mortal career.

D E C E M B E R.

What shall we speak of
When we are old as you? when we shall hear
The rain and wind beat dark December?

Shakespeare.

THE last month of the year has only once had its name altered, which was in the time of the Emperor Commodus, who called it Amazonius, in honor of a favourite Courtezan; but the name died with the tyrant. The Romans placed the month under the protection of Vesta, whom they worshipped as the patroness of the vestal virgins, and the goddess of fire.

December, with our Saxon ancestors, according to Verstigan, had his due appellation given him in the name of *winter-monat*, to wit, *winter-moneth*; but after the Saxons received Christianity; they then, of devotion to the birth-time of Christ, termed it by the name of *heligh-monat*, that is to say, holy-moneth.

Peacham says, "December must be expressed with a horrid and fearful aspect, clad in Irish rugge, or coarse freeze, girt unto him; upon his head, no garland, but three or four night-caps, and over them a Turkish turbant; his nose red; his mouth and beared clogd with iseickles; at his back a bundle of holly, ivy, or misletoe, holding, in furd mittens, the sign of Capricornus."

6. ST. NICHOLAS.

He was born at Patara, in Lycia; and through the interest of Constantine the Great, became bishop of Myra, the duties of which he ably performed, till the period of his death, in 843. He was held in high estimation, and is called the patron of children and mariners.

Armstrong says: "Near the entrance of the harbour (of Cindadella) stands a chapel, dedicated to St. Nicholas, to which the sailors resort that have suffered shipwreck, to return thanks for their preservation, and to hang up votive pictures, representing the dangers they have escaped, in gratitude to the saint for the protection he vouchsafed them, and in accomplishment of the vows they made in the height of the storm."

8. CONCEPTION OF THE VIRGIN MARY,

This day commemorates the miraculous conception of the Blessed Virgin, the festival was first instituted by Anselm, Archbishop of Canterbury.

8. 1829. JOHN CAREY, L. L. D., DIED, ÆTAT. 73.

Dr. Carey was born in Ireland, and educated in France. His first production, *Latin Prosody made Easy*, appeared in 1800; the great success of which, induced him to pursue his classical labours, and he afterwards published *Skeleton of the Latin Accidence*; *Practical English Prosody and Versification*; *Latin Terminations made Easy*; *Learning better than House and Land*, &c. He also edited *Dryden's Virgil*; more than fifty volumes of the *Regent's Classics*; *Ainsworth's Dictionary*; *Schleusner's Greek Lexicon*, &c., and translated various works from the French and German.

11. 1829. REV. ISAAC TAYLOR DIED.

Mr. Taylor was brought up to the art of engraving, which profession he pursued for several years, and produced a number of plates highly creditable to his talents; among which

were a set of plates illustrative of the Bible, from designs by his son. Preferring the quiet pleasures of a country life, with all its numerous advantages, to those of a noisy and dissipated metropolis, he left London in 1786, and settled at Lavenham, in Suffolk, where he continued his business until 1796, when, in compliance with the wishes of a dissenting congregation at Colchester, he removed to that town to take the pastoral care of a dissenting congregation. In 1810, he became pastor of a chapel at Ongar, which he retained till his death.

Mr. Taylor was the author of a number of books for young people, all of the most unexceptionably moral character: among these, the principal are *Scenes in Europe*; *Beginnings of Biography*; *Scenes of British Wealth*, &c. Mrs. Taylor and her daughters have also greatly distinguished themselves by numerous publications inculcating the purest morals and piety.

13. ST. LUCY,

A native of Syracuse, who was solicited in marriage by a Sicilian nobleman, but having previously made a vow of devoting herself to the Almighty, she assigned that as her reason for refusing the offer. Finding her resolute in her determination, her admirer, in the rage of disappointment, accused her of Christianity before the heathen judge, Peschasius, who condemned her to death, in the year 304. She died, however, in prison, whilst awaiting the execution of her sentence.

16. O'SAPIENTIA.

These words are the commencement of an anthem, in the Latin service, in honor of Christ's advent, which used to be sung in the church from this day, until Christmas Eve.

18. 1829. MAJOR-GENERAL DAVID STEWART, C.B.

David Stewart, of Garth, entered early into the army, and served in the campaigns of the Duke of York in Flanders. He was afterwards actively engaged in the West Indies, and in Egypt, under Sir Ralph Abercromby. In 1806 he greatly

distinguished himself at the battle of Maida, and in 1810 at the capture of Guadaloupe, for which service he was appointed a Companion of the Bath.

During the leisure of peace in 1822, he published *Sketches of the Character, Manners, and present Condition of the Scottish Highlanders*, a work replete with amusement and information.

About a year before his death he was appointed to the government of St. Lucia, in the West Indies, from which he was destined never to return.

21. ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE.

He is supposed to have been a Galilean and a Jew ; but there are very few passages in Scripture concerning him. It is said he travelled and promulgated Christianity among the Parthians, Medes, Persians, and Carmenians, and to have been the apostle of the Indies, where he effected numerous conversions, and by his preaching raised the indignation of the Brahmins, who instigated the people, till they threw stones and darts at him, and ended his life by running him through the body with a lance.

The Common Councilmen, of the City of London, are always elected on this day.

21. SHORTEST DAY.

This day, in London, is 7hrs. 44min. 17sec. ; allowing 9 min. 5sec. for refraction.

The shortness of the days at this season is an incentive to reflection, and the mind naturally associates the duration of time, with the uncertainty of human life. Of all things, let not the mind forget the manifold goodness of its Divine Creator, and the nourishing of those *affections* which, with the aid of *religion*, strews the path of life with ever-blooming roses ; and without which, life invariably pursues a thorny and a profitless course.

AFFECTION'S TOKEN.

BY J. ROBINS.

The infant when it lisps its pray'r,
And goes to slumber on its bed,
Unconscious of all worldly care,
Which yet has fall'n not on its head ;
When its last words, " Good night," are spoken,
Looks for a kiss—affection's token.

The youth when going from its home,
To trudge through learning's thorny way,
Regrets the parting hour when come,
But hails the look'd-for holiday ;
Tho' separation's pang is broken
By some kind gift—affection's token.

To manhood grown—a lover new—
Affection takes another turn ;
To some lov'd fair he breathes his vow,
And ardent passions in him burn :
The altar proves the truths he's spoken,
The ring becomes affection's token.

A husband now, and parent soon,
He feels a father's tender care ;
A lisping infant—nature's boon—
Claims, with his wife, an equal share ;
To both the words of love are spoken,
Seal'd with a kiss—affection's token.

Time wears away, and years pass by,
And grey hairs crown both man and wife ;
But age has charms, when children try
To smooth their parent's path thro' life :
By this the ills of life are broken,
'Tis then, in truth, affection's token.

And when at last death calls us hence,
To realms of pure and endless bliss,
The charms life then can best dispense,
Is in the consciousness of this :
That nought against us can be spoken,
Oh then death seems affection's token.

Thus then through life we find its charm
Is centered in affection's tie ;
The heart when cold and sear'd 'twill warm,
'Twill banish too the sigh :
Life's path is thorny, rough, and broken,
Divested of affection's token.

25. CHRISTMAS DAY.

HYMN.

Hark ! the herald angels sing,
Ye nations all rejoice !
Tidings glad to you we bring,
Raise high your tuneful voice.

The Saviour of mankind this day,
Descending from above,
Deigns to assume his mortal sway,
In mercy, peace, and love.

An infant from a virgin sprung,
Of royal David's race,
In Bethlehem ; and every tongue
Shall consecrate the place.

A manger is his lowly bed,
In swaddling-clothes he's bound ;
But angels hover o'er his head,
And glory shines around.

The shepherds in the gloom of night,
As on the ground they lay,
Are startled by a vision bright,
Which summons them away.

The eastern sages from afar,
The heavenly babe t'adore
Come, guided by a brilliant star,
And grateful tribute pour.

The wise, the wonderful, his name
The Prince of Peace, the Lord,
The Sun of Righteousness proclaim,
Oh, listen to his word.

His love so infinite, so great,
He suffered to redeem
From sin and death man's fallen state ;
His mercy so supreme.

Then let us bend with suppliant knee,
And loud hosannahs sing,
To Him that was, is, and shall be,
Our Saviour and our King.

N. R.

The festival of the nativity of our Saviour, is of great antiquity, and was first introduced in the Catholic church about the year 500. It received its name of Christmas Day, from the Latin *Christi Missa*, the mass of Christ.

The Vigil, or the eve of Christmas, was formerly one of devotion, after which, a log of wood, called the *Yule-clog*, was put upon the fire, and kept burning during the following day, which was celebrated with much mirth and festivity.

A contemporary says, "Christmas comes but once a year, and this simple fact is in itself calculated to increase both the means of enjoying, and the disposition to enjoy its accustomed festivities. But, after all that has been said of the smoking sirloin, the rich plum pudding, and the tempting mince pie, (and these are doubtless the most prominent characteristics of the season, that have outlived the days of our happy forefathers), the real

enjoyment of Christmas is derived from a higher source than the mere gratification of the animal appetites. What can a rational being enjoy, in this, or in any other season, without the social intercourse of friendship? Without this, to engage and expand the better feelings of the heart, what would be the pleasure amid all the gaieties of the Christmas week, of Twelfth Day, or of New Year's eve? This is the time at which we expect to meet our friends, and are not disappointed. We pay our annual visits, and receive our annual visitors. This constitutes the joy, and the happiness of the party assembled by the evening fireside."

As carols were formerly much sung at this season, the following one may not be unacceptable:

A CHRISTMAS CAROL.

BY J. F. CHORLEY.

Old Winter hath his clarion blown,
O'er field and leafless wood,
And with a silver mantle strown
The forest and the flood :
And from his icy urn he pours
The winds that stir the struggling deep,
The wreathing snow, the plenteous showers ;
And round about the castle towers,
His mournful breezes sweep.

Yet though the storms with blustering wrath,
Drive forth the dying year,
See on the Winter's frosty path
A jocund form appear :
And with the tabor and the horn,
His brows with yew and holly bound,
Lo ! Christmas comes—his eldest born—
With voice that laugheth care to scorn,
And scatters mirth around.

Lo! Christmas comes! that household word,
To English bosoms dear;
And memory, by its magic stirred,
Retraces many a year,
To days when masque and pageant flung
Above its snows their gorgeous dress;
When Shakspeare's lyre immortal rung,
And Essex wooed, and Sidney sung
The times of good Queen Bess.

Lo! Christmas comes! and joy and mirth
Their hearty revels hold;
And gladness hovers o'er the hearth,
Though all without be cold.
They come, who long have absent been
In distant town or foreign land;
While berries red, and branches green,
Suspended from the roof are seen
Above the happy band.

And in the Baron's stately hall
I hear the harpers play;
For thither crowd the peasants all
In holiday array:
Nor Lords nor Ladies scorn to night,
To mingle with the meaner throng,
And while they dance till morning light,
Smiles on their glee each aged wight,
And wishes he were young.

And some there be, who sit apart,
And wile the hours of night,
With tales that curdle every heart,
Of goblin and of sprite:
How through the ancient tapestried room
At eve a shrieking spectre glides,
And in the midnight's thickest gloom,
The mail-clad Templer leaves his tomb,
And through the church-yard strides.

But wearied foot and timid heart
Must soon to rest retire,
The clock hath told the time to part,
And sinking is the fire :
So, loth to leave their shelter warm,
Homeward they wend through sleet and snow ;
Some to the lone secluded farm,
That gives the vale its pastoral charm,
Some to the hamlet low.

Departed times ! shall surly Pride,
Or Fashion's heartless sway,
As some old garment thrown aside,
Your customs cast away ?
No ! let the votaries of their train,
Despise the sports of former days,—
I envy not their chill disdain,
But fain would sing my worthiest strain,
Old Christmas in thy praise !

Winter's Wreath, 1830.

In the west of England many ancient customs are still continued. A correspondent, in the *Gentleman's Magazine*, for June, 1830, says: he has often seen the drama of St. George acted at this season in Cornwall, and that the variation at different places is very trifling. He has thus described it :

St. George and the other tragic performers are dressed out somewhat in the style of Morris dancers, in their shirt sleeves and white trowsers, much decorated with ribbons and handkerchiefs, each carrying a drawn sword in his hand, if they can be procured, otherwise a cudgel. They wear high caps of pasteboard, adorned with beads, small pieces of looking-glass, coloured paper, &c. ; several long pieces of pith generally hang down from the top, with small pieces of different coloured cloth strung on them ; the whole has a very smart effect.

Father Christmas is personified in a grotesque manner, as an ancient man, wearing a large mask, a wig, and a huge club, wherewith he keeps the bystanders in order.

The Doctor, who is generally the Merry Andrew of the piece, is dressed in a very ridiculous manner, with a wig, three-cornered hat, and painted face.

The other comic characters are dressed according to fancy.

The Female, where there is one, is usually in the dress worn half a century ago.

The Hobby Horse, which is a character sometimes introduced, wears a representation of a horse's hide.

The Christmas play, it appears, was in vogue also in the north of England, as well as in Scotland. By some the play is considered to have reference to the time of the Crusaders, and to have been introduced on the return of the adventurers from the Holy Land, as typifying their battles.

BATTLE OF ST. GEORGE.

One of the party steps in, crying out,

Room, a room, brave gallants, room !

Within this Court

I do resort,

To show some sport

And pastime,

Gentlemen and Ladies, in the Christmas time.

After this note of *preparation*, old Father Christmas capers into the room, saying,

Here come I, old Father Christmas,

Welcome or welcome not ;

I hope old Father Christmas

Will never be forgot.

I was born in a rocky country, where there was no wood to make me a cradle. I was rocked in a stouring bowl, which made me round shouldered then, and I am round shouldered still.

He then frisks about the room until he thinks he has sufficiently amused the spectators, when he makes his exit with this speech :

Who went to the orchard to steal apples, to make gooseberry pies against Christmas?

These prose speeches, you may suppose, depend much upon the imagination of the actor.

Enter Turkish Knight.

Here come I, a Turkish knight,
Come from the Turkish land to fight,
And if St. George do meet me here,
I'll try his courage without fear.

Enter St. George.

Here comes I, St. George,
That worthy champion bold,
And with my sword and spear
I won three crowns of gold.
I fought the Dragon bold,
And brought him to the slaughter,
By that I gained fair Sabra,
The King of Egypt's daughter.

Turk. Knight. St. George, I pray be not too bold,
If thy blood is hot I'll soon make it cold.

St. George. Thou Turkish Knight, I pray forbear,
I'll make thee dread my sword and spear.

They fight until the Turkish Knight falls.

St. George. I have a little bottle which goes by the name
of Elecampane,
If the man is alive let him rise and fight again.

The Knight here rises on one knee, and endeavours to continue the fight, but is again struck down.

Turk. Knight. Oh pardon me, St. George, Oh! pardon me
I crave,
Oh pardon me this once, and I will be your
slave.

The Knight gets up, and they again fight, till the Knight receives a heavy blow, and then drops on the ground as dead.

St. George. Is there a Doctor to be found,
To cure a deep and deadly wound?

Enter Doctor.

Oh! yes, there is a Doctor to be found
To cure a deep and deadly wound.

St. George. What can you cure?

Doctor. I can cure the Itch, the Palsy, and Gout,
If the Devil is in him I'll pull him out.

The Doctor here performs the cure with sundry grimaces, and St. George and the Knight again fight, when the latter is knocked down, and left for dead.

Then another performer enters, and, on seeing the dead body, says,

Ashes to ashes, dust to dust,
If uncle Tom Pearce wont have him, Molly must.

The Hobby Horse here capers in, and takes off the body.

Enter Old Squire.

Here comes I, Old Squire,
As black as any Friar,
As ragged as a colt,
To have fine clothes for malt.

Enter Rub-a-Bub.

Here comes I, old Rub, Bub, Bub, Bub;
Upon my shoulders I carries a club,
And in my hand a frying-pan,
So am not I a valiant man.

These characters serve as a sort of burlesque on St. George and the other hero, and may be regarded in the light of an anti-masque.

Enter the Boxholder.

Here comes I, great head and little wit,
Put your hand in your pocket,
And give what you think fit.
Gentlemen and Ladies sitting down at your ease,
Put your hands in your pockets, give me what you please.

St. George. Gentlemen and Ladies, the sport is almost ended;

Come pay to the box, it is highly commended.
The box it would speak, if it had but a tongue;
Come throw in your money, and think it no wrong.

The characters now generally finish with a dance, or sometimes a song or two are introduced. In some of the performances two or three other tragic heroes are brought forward, as the King of Egypt and his son, &c.; but they are all of them much in the style of that I have just described, varying somewhat in length and number of characters.

W. S.

26. ST. STEPHEN.

He was one of the seven deacons appointed by the Apostles to manage the public fund for the relief of the poor, and to attend to minor ecclesiastical occupations. He is called the protomartyr, or the first martyr, or witness of the New Testament; for although St. John the Baptist was murdered on account of the testimony he bore concerning Christ, he died before the consummation of the old law. St. Stephen having charged the Jews with the murder of Jesus Christ, he was by them stoned to death in the year 33.

27. ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST. (See p. 98).

27. 1829. MISS JOAN COLEMAN DIED, ÆTAT. 85.

In consequence of having slept in a damp bed when a child, this singular individual was deprived of hearing and speech, and, what is still more remarkable, her mind appears to have been stunted from that time; so that, with a very antiquated visage, and "guise of ancient date," she seemed to possess the faculties of a sprightly girl about six or eight years of age—such as fondness for play-things, love of gay sights and dress, and much attachment to children. But, though her understanding was so defective, her memory was remarkably strong; she never forgot the person she had once seen, nor the appellation by which that person was designated in her vocabulary. she generally attended church, and turned over the leaves of the prayer-book as if following the minister. She died at Emsworth in Hampshire, and on the day of her death, she was heard frequently to ejaculate, in her own dialect, "Our Father." and "Amen."

28. INNOCENTS.

This festival is intended to commemorate the murder of the Jewish children by Herod. It is recorded by Macrobius, that the base and cruel order of Herod was so promptly executed, that even one of the sons of the

tyrant, then at nurse, fell a sacrifice with the other children.

This is also called Childermas Day, on which it was formerly thought unlucky to put on new clothes, to pare nails, or do any thing out of the ordinary course.

31. ST. SILVESTER.

He was born at Rome, and succeeded Miltiades in the Papacy, in 314. He is said to have been the author of many of the rites and ceremonies of the Romish Church, and died in the year 334.

POPE PIUS THE EIGHTH DIED.

His holiness François Xavier Castiglione, was born at Cingoli on the 20th of November, 1761, elected to the Popedom on the 31st of March, 1829, and crowned on the 5th of April following. Before the Holy Father was confined to his bed he occupied himself on some indispensable affairs ; and ordered all letters addressed to him on the actual state of affairs in France and Belgium, should be promptly answered by briefs, which he himself dictated, and which breathed a love of order and of peace.

Having brought our year to a close, we shall conclude it with a cheerful, yet moral song, from the pen of one of our gifted correspondents. That she, as well as our readers, may have cause to repeat the last line when time has again run his annual course, is our sincere wish.

SONG ON THE OLD YEAR.

BY M. L. B.

Brave bonnie Old Year!—I'll sing to thee
 As *poets* are wont to do ;
 Yet, not in the whining minstrelsy,
 Of that most dissembling crew :

No! bonnie Old Year! my dear, good friend,
Though blessed thou'st prov'd to me,
With sun through thy clouds, yet heav'n forefend
That *I* should be wailing thee!

Brave bonnie Old Year! thou'rt gone at last,
To the thousands of thy kin;
Yet moaning like *some* thy season past,
Were methinks a mortal sin!

For, bonnie Old Year! though some bards write
Of thee, in *seeming* sorrow,
Oh! heed not each lay for the dead to-night,
Whose heir brings in the morrow!

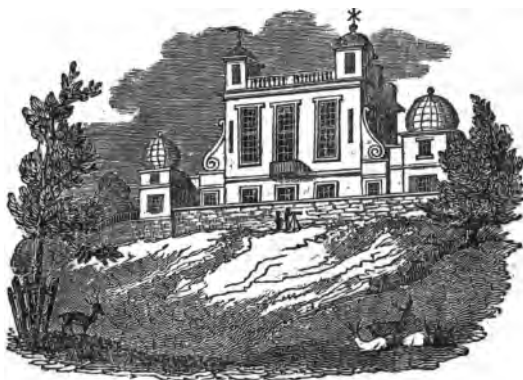
Brave bonnie Old Year! thou'lt lose thy date,
With an ingrate world who'll run
Unheeding thy late *lamented* fate,
To worship thy jocund son!

So, bonnie Old Year! as hope hath taught
There's good in futurity,
Take,—take my thanks, for the bliss thou'st brought,
May the *New Year* prove like thee!



PART II.

ASTRONOMICAL OCCURRENCES.

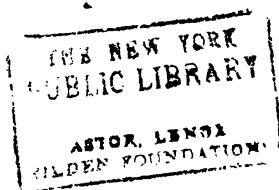


Royal Observatory, Greenwich.

Philosophy directs
The ruling helm ; or like the liberal breath
Of potent Heaven, invisible, the sail
Swells out, and bears the inferior world along.

The radiant tracts on high
Are her exalted range ; intent to gaze
Creation thro' ; and, from that full complex
Of never ending wonders, to conceive
Of the *Sole Being* right, who spoke the word,
And Nature moved complete.

THOMSON.



INTRODUCTION.

O Spirit! that dost prefer
Before all temples th' upright heart and pure,
Instruct me, for thou knowst! Thou, from the first,
Wast present; and with mighty wings outspread,
Dove-like, sat'st brooding on the vast abyss,
And mad'st it pregnant! What in me is dark
Illumine; what is low, raise and support.

Milton.

“The heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament sheweth his handy work!” This devout exclamation of the Royal Poet, though it does not in reality possess a higher value now, than when it flowed from his rapturous lips, comes with increased force to the contemplative mind, as it surveys the starry regions in connexion with the discoveries of modern astronomy. The shining frame of the heavens, the regular revolutions of the sphere, and the precise movements of the sun, moon, and planets, were calculated to excite the admiration of the most insensible in the early ages of the world, and to exalt the piety of those who, like David, considered the heavens the work of the finger of God, and the moon and the stars as ordained by him; yet little was known then of the distances, magnitudes, and complicated motions of the planetary train; the earth itself was considered a winged car, sailing through ether, or a broad disc supported on mysterious pillars, instead of a glorious orb

“that spinning sleeps
On her soft axle, while she paces even
And bears us swift, with the smooth air along.”

Nothing whatever was imagined of the splendid retinue of Jupiter, or the stupendous apparatus of Saturn—these beautiful bodies had unostentatiously pursued their circling way, not forcing their splendid equipages on the gaze of man, but declaring, in silent and impressive language, “The works of the Lord are great, sought out of all them that have pleasure therein.”

Comets advanced to, and retreated from, the sun, and were by the sages of antiquity considered as transient meteors; their elevated situation in the system, the courses they described, and their unerring laws of motion, were unconceived of till within the last few centuries—still these “aërial racers” held on their sublime paths, and invited the regard of man to the works of the Lord, and the operations of his hand.

The *Fixed Stars* had shed their lustre, and incessantly sent forth streams of radiance from their glittering orbs; the sweet influences of the *Pleiades* had been diffused, notwithstanding the crimes of the old, and the idolatrous rites of the new world; the belt of *Orion* had beamed forth in beauty, and *Arcturus*, with his sons, had pursued his course around the glowing pole, long before, and unceasingly since, the attention of Abraham had been directed to the spangled firmament by the great Creator of its shining glories: “Look now towards heaven, and tell the stars if thou be able to number them: so shall thy seed be.”

Passing by the moon walking in brightness, and the nearer planets that roll above and beneath our world, circling the resplendent sun with calm and simple grandeur, we review some of the recent discoveries of science: the four minute bodies which move between

Mars and Jupiter in close proximity to each other, so minute, as not to exceed in magnitude some of the islets of the British seas, present anomalies in the system, moving in paths very considerably inclined to those of the larger planets ; these paths crossing each other, but in such a manner, that the revolving bodies cannot come in contact ; the form of these paths so eccentric, that one of them at its greatest distance from the sun, is then double of its least ; the immense atmosphere of two, so great as almost to assimilate to those of the cometary train, yet such are but a few of the wonderful phenomena connected with these four interesting bodies.

Beyond the orbit of that which was for thousands of years considered the most remote planet (Saturn), revolves one surrounded by a splendid train of moons, moving nearly at right angles to the course of the primary (Uranus), and from east to west, while those of the other planets move in paths not much inclined to their primaries, and from west to east.

We notice other remarkable phenomena relative to the solar system, which have been discovered within a very few years. The comet of Halley, whose period is about seventy-five years, and which is expected to return in the year 1835 : this comet, whose greatest distance from the sun is double that of Uranus, was considered the “ Mercury of Comets,” but within the past ten years, it has been discovered that there are three at least which never leave the planetary system ; one, the comet of Encke, whose period is three years and a quarter, included within the orbit of Jupiter ; another, the Comet of Biela, the period of which is six years and three quarters, and extends not so far as Saturn, both of which

will return in the following year 1832; and a third, known by the name of the "lost comet of 1770," whose period is twenty years, and ranges not beyond Uranus. As it respects the boundary of the solar system, the vast distances to which some comets are now known to roam fully prove how very far the attraction of the sun extends; though they stretch their courses to such depths in the abyss of space, yet by virtue of the sun's power they return and bathe themselves in the effulgence of his beams. Wonderful as it may seem, the vast area comprised within the orbit of the most distant comet sinks into a point, when compared with the awful void between the boundary where our sun's attraction terminates, and the distance of the nearest fixed star!

The zeal with which Astronomy has been recently cultivated in this country and on the continent, has been rewarded with several important discoveries relative to the structure and economy of the universe: objects have been observed, curves measured, and regions explored, of which a few years since astronomers had no conception; many particulars relative to the heavenly frame, which had been received without hesitation, and considered as satisfactorily explained, are now doubted; the members of the solar system, instead of being confined to a few planetary and cometary bodies, are now justly believed to exceed in number those already discovered. Some of the fixed stars, (instead of being so nearly stationary, as to warrant the appellation they have so long received) are proved to have a progressive motion, which becomes evident after the lapse of a very short space of time; and this recently discovered phenomena, not occurring with the bright stars of the firma-

ment, but among those whose feeble light would not, but for their motion, have arrested the attention of the observer; so that there is reason to believe that some of the most unobtrusive of the starry train, and whose feeble light appeared to indicate their greater distance, are much nearer to our system, than those glittering gems whose copious streams of radiance would seem to imply their closer proximity. This enquiry is connected with the discovery of the revolutions of two or more stars round a common centre of gravity, the orbits of some of which are exceedingly complicated, and performed in periods of time varying from sixty years to many centuries. This real motion traced in double, triple, and other combinations of stars, connected with another motion which is only apparent, and which affects the whole of the starry frame, suggests the idea that our sun forms one of such a system, and that it is moving onward through space, and science seems on the very verge of demonstrating the nature, direction, and rate of this motion.

Among this wilderness of stars are some that periodically change their brilliancy; others, appearing where none before had been observed, and others missed from places which they had been accustomed to occupy: these bright bodies not only shining with different degrees of brightness, but exhibiting the most lovely and variegated hues,—from the soft blue to the colour of the amethyst,—from the delicate green to the emerald,—from a pale yellow to a bright orange,—from a rosy tint to the intense brilliancy of the ruby.

“Some barely visible, some proudly shine,
Like living jewels.”

But we have hitherto only entered the vestibule of the vast temple of the universe ; we penetrate still further into its awful mysteries in search of new wonders. From the earliest ages, one or two bright spots had been noticed in the heavens, called *nebulae* ; since the invention of the telescope, the heavens are found to be replete with them, various in their shapes, magnitudes, and brilliancy ; some of these appearing as solid balls, compressed into a blaze of light,—one like a partially opened fan, along the centre of which are three bright telescopic stars of different magnitudes ; others like the feeble flame of a taper—a circular *nebulosity* composed of striated streams of light,—a lock of silvery hair,—a ring or wreath of soft splendour,—a large proportion like faint streaks of light, such an appearance as it may be supposed the Milky Way would assume if beheld from some remote region of space—and nearly the whole of these mysterious apparitions, resolvable into clusters of stars. From hence it is inferred, that all the stars of the universe are collected into *nebulae*, and that those bright stars that figure conspicuously on our midnight sky are only members of that nebula, to which our sun belongs !

Here then we pause, and from the station to which we have been introduced by the discoveries of modern astronomy, look above, beneath, around us. How awful the survey ! Our sun, the centre of a system of worlds—lunar, planetary, and cometary ; this sun, but a member among millions of others, each of which may have a similar system ; all these, if viewed from some distant point of space, appearing as some rich cluster of stars amidst myriads of others ; further still, our stellar system resembling an indistinct nebula, and from a place of

observation still more remote; melting away into a soft tint of light, or no longer visible in the deep azure of the midnight sky; these hosts of stellar systems probably in motion through the vast fields of ether, for which there is room in the unbounded realms of space, and ample time in the rolling ages of eternity!

But art, reason, and even imagination, fail to ascend higher in this wonderful progression, for who will essay to point out the top-stone of the stupendous structure of the universe? “Lift up your eyes on high, and behold who hath created these things, that bringeth out their host by number: he calleth them all by names by the greatness of his might, for that he is strong in power not one faileth.”

As the objects referred to in this brief sketch of modern astronomy present themselves in a favourable position for observation, their places and phenomena will be duly pointed out in the *Astronomical Occurrences* for 1831.



JANUARY.

OBLIQUITY OF THE ECLIPTIC.

The magnitudes of this angle at several epochs during the present year are exhibited in the following

TABLE.

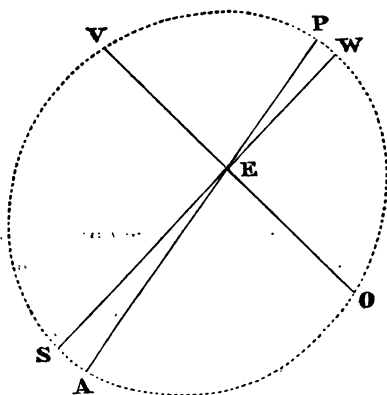
January	1st, the true obliquity is ..	23° 27' 33".0
April	1st,	23 27 34 .1
July	1st,	23 27 33 .7
October	1st,	23 27 34 .9
December	31st,	23 27 34 .6
January	1st, the mean obliquity is..	23 27 42 .1

The equations of the equinoctial points at the same time are as follow ; namely

January	1st, the equation is	8".0
April	1st,	9 .3
July	1st,	10 .6
October	1st,	11 .7
December	31st,	12 .9

SOLAR PHENOMENA.

At the boundary of the old and new year, the earth attains that part of its elliptical orbit in which it makes its nearest approach to the sun, or is (in astronomical language) in perihelion ; the line drawn from this point to its place of aphelion, is called the major axis of the orbit, the extremities of which are not stationary, but moving forward in the order of the signs. This remarkable motion of the points of perihelion and aphelion, will be better understood by the following figure.



The ellipse is intended to represent the orbit of the earth; W and S, the winter and summer solstices, V and O the vernal and autumnal equinoxes, and P E A the major axis of the earth's orbit; P being the point of perihelion, A of aphelion, and E the sun. In the year 1250, the points of perihelion and aphelion, P A, coincided with the solstitial points W S; these have since then separated 10° , with an annual motion of $62''$, so that in the year 6476 the major axis of the earth's orbit will have so far revolved, as to coincide with the line of the equinoxes V O. It is calculated that a similar coincidence occurred about 4000 years before the Christian Era, which is so far remarkable, as happening at the time that chronologists consider the creation of the world.

The elliptical form of the earth's orbit may be deduced from the different angles under which the sun is seen at various times of the year, for, it is evident, if its apparent diameter continued the same throughout the whole of its

annual course, that the figure of the orbit would be that of a circle; now this angle is found to be continually varying; it is plain therefore that its distance is so likewise, for it cannot be supposed that the sun's actual magnitude undergoes any increase or diminution; from numerous accurate measurements it is found, that the sun's apparent diameter increases from the 1st of July (when it is at its minimum of 31' 31") to the 1st of January (when it is at its maximum of 32' 34" 16), and that from this day it diminishes in the same proportion, that it increased in the corresponding parts of the year.

On the 1st of January the sun's place in the heavens is near 1 and 2 ν in Sagittarius; on the 18th it will enter Capricornus. According to the tabular Zodiac, the sun enters Aquarius at 33 min. after 5 of the afternoon of the 20th of this month.

LUNAR PHENOMENA.

Phases of the Moon.

Last Quarter	5th day	at 54 min.	after 10 at night.
New Moon	14th	.... 37	..... 1 in the morn.
First Quarter	21st	.... 29	..... 7
Full Moon	28th	.... 33	..... 2

Conjunctions of the Moon with the Planets and Stars.

January 2nd,	with Regulus....	at 5 in the morning.
2nd,	.... Saturn.....	noon.
14th,	.... Jupiter	1 in the afternoon.
14th,	.... Venus.....	3
15th,	.... Mercury.....	2
20th,	.... ν in Pisces.....	7 in the evening.
20th,	.... Mars	10 at night.
21st,	.... μ in Cetus ..	11
23rd,	.... γ in Taurus ..	3 in the afternoon.
23rd.	.... Aldebaran....	9 at night.
29th,	.... Saturn	7 in the evening.

PHENOMENA PLANETARUM.

Mercury will be at his greatest elongation on the 11th of this month as an evening star, its position at the time will be near the planet *Uranus*, the latter will not be visible from its proximity to the solar rays. 17th day. Stationary.

Inferior conjunction at 30 min. after 5 of the afternoon of the 26th.

Venus is now an evening star, but too near the sun for satisfactory observation; it will be in conjunction with *Jupiter* at 6 in the morning of the 13th, and with *Uranus* at 4 in the afternoon of the 22nd. This planet will also be in conjunction with the following fixed stars in *Capricornus*: δ at 8 in the evening of the 23rd; γ at 3, and 2β at 5 in the afternoon of the 30th.

Phases of Venus.

The proportions of the bright and dark phases of this planet are as follow :

January 1st.—Illuminated part = 11.9877

Dark part..... = 0.0123

Mars will be in conjunction with 1ζ in *Pisces* at 11 on the night of the 3rd of this month. In quadrature at 30 min. after 9 of the morning of the 14th.

The Asteroids.

Vesta, on the first of the month, is 2° North-west of the star numbered 34 in the constellation *Cetus*. Although this asteroid has a disc so small as to elude a satisfactory measurement, it shines with an intense and pure white light: when the sky is clear, and it is in a favorable position for observation, it may be seen with

the naked eye, as a star of the sixth magnitude; it is free from nebulosity, and similar in appearance to Uranus.

Juno, on the first of the month, is near 1. 2. 3. Ψ in Aquarius, and very close to the star numbered 963, which is a double star. This small planet shines as a star of the eighth magnitude, is of a reddish color, and free from that extensive atmosphere, that surrounds Pallas and Ceres. Some have supposed that if these bodies are the wreck of a destroyed world, that *Juno* was the satellite, and not a component part. This asteroid is liable to considerable variations in its light, arising probably from its rotation, which is supposed to be performed in 27 hours.

Pallas, on the first of the month, is in the solstitial colure, near to the star 73 in Taurus Poniatowski. The light of this small planet is very variable; it sometimes appears pale, and enveloped with vapours; at other seasons it shines forth distinctly, and exhibits a defined disc.

Ceres, on the first of the month, is half a degree north-west of λ in Sagittarius. This asteroid is more ruddy in its appearance than Pallas, and looks like a star of the eighth magnitude: on account of the difficulty of distinguishing its disc from the extensive atmosphere that surrounds it, its diameter is not correctly known. It has been suspected that Ceres is attended by two moons.

Jupiter in conjunction with the sun at 15 min. after noon of the 20th of this month.

Eclipses of the Satellites of Jupiter.

Jupiter is too near the sun to admit of any of these eclipses being visible.

Saturn is in the constellation *Leo*, five and a half degrees east of the bright star *Regulus* or *Lion's Heart*. This planet is now in a favorable position for observations of its singular apparatus of rings, belts, and satellites.

FORM OF SATURN'S RING.

January 1st, Semi-transverse axis ——— 44".69
Semi-conjugate axis..... ——— 6.80

Uranus is too near the sun to be observed.

Sphere of the Fixed Stars.

Positions of the principal constellations, on the 1st day of the month, at eight in the evening.

The direction of the *Zodiac* is from E.N.E. to the W.S.W. points of the horizon. *Leo* is rising in the east. *Cancer* E. by N. *Gemini*, due east. *Taurus* S.E. by S. *Aries* is on the meridian. *Pisces* S.W., and *Aquarius* setting W.S.W.

The situations of the stars north and south of the *Zodiac*, are—*Cassiopeia* W.N.W. of the zenith. *Perseus* in the zenith. *Ursa Major* rising in the N.E. *Lyra* N.W. *Andromeda* W. by S. *Cygnus* N.W. by W. *Canis Minor* E. by S. *Canis Major* S.E. *Monoceros* E.S.E., and *Orion* S.E. by S.

Telescopic Objects.

In the above survey of the starry host, there are innumerable wonders cognizable only by the telescope; the following are selected for particular notice,—observing, that some which may be specified are visible only with very powerful and excellent glasses.

In *Leo* there are numerous nebulae, but these are generally of a faint description. The star γ in *Leo* is double, and is termed a binary sidereal system,—the

smaller of the two stars performs a retrograde revolution in a plane considerably inclined to the line of vision ; it performs its whole revolution in 1200 years. Proësepe in Cancer, which to the naked eye appears like a small cloud, is formed from at least forty stars. Castor, a star of the first magnitude, in Gemini, is a double star ; the smaller star revolves round the larger, in 342 years. The Pleiades in Taurus, which appears to consist of only six stars to the unassisted sight, is found to contain 188 stars. In Taurus there is a star of the eighth magnitude of remarkable richness and singularity of hue ; it is of an intense ruby red, verging to scarlet. Mesartim in the head of Aries is a double star. ζ in Pisces is a beautiful double star. A nebula between ϵ and δ in Cassiopeia, which is resolvable into a mass of stars. The stars in the sword hand of Perseus is a splendid spectacle through any telescope. The nebula in the girdle of Andromeda has sometimes been mistaken for a comet ; the one in the sword of Orion is probably the most remarkable in the heavens.

An eye of awe and wonder let me roll,
And roll for ever. Who can satiate sight
In such a scene, in such an ocean wide
Of deep astonishment? where depth, heighth, breadth,
Are lost in their extremes ; and where to count
The thick sown glories in this field of fire,
Perhaps a Seraph's computation fails.

Young.

A TABLE

Of the Sun's rising and setting, Equation of Time, Transits and Meridional Altitudes of the Planets.

JANUARY.	SUN		Equation of Time add to appt. time	MERCURY.		VENUS.		MARS.		JUPITER.		SATURN.		URANUS.	
	rises.	sets.		Trans.	Alt.	Trans.	Alt.	Trans.	Alt.	Trans.	Alt.	Trans.	Alt.	Trans.	Alt.
Day.	h. m.	h. m.	m. s.	h. m.	o ' "	h. m.	o ' "	h. m.	o ' "	h. m.	o ' "	h. m.	o ' "	h. m.	o ' "
1st, Saturday ..	8 53	55	3 41	1 10a	15 43	0 12a	14 58	6 14a	45 22	1 4a	17 5	3 28m	50 55	2 0a	19 52
7th, Friday....	8 13	59	6 25	1 19	18 15	0 18	15 43	6 0	46 44	0 43	17 20	3 1	51 1	1 36	19 57
13th, Thursday.	7 55	4 5	8 53	1 17	21 4	0 24	16 54	5 46	48 6	0 23	17 36	2 34	51 9	1 12	20 2
19th, Wednesday	7 47	4 13	10 58	0 55	23 7	0 30	18 27	5 33	49 27	0 4	17 53	2 7	51 17	0 48	20 7
25th, Tuesday ..	7 39	4 21	12 35	0 8	23 17	0 36	20 22	5 21	50 46	11 41m	18 10	1 40	51 37	0 24	20 12

FEBRUARY.

Hail, holy light, offspring of Heaven first born,
Or of the Eternal co-eternal beam,
May I express thee unblamed? since God is light,
And never but in unapproached light,
Dwelt from Eternity; dwelt then in thee,
Bright effluence of bright essence increate.
Or hear'st thou rather, pure ethereal stream,
Whose fountain who shall tell? before the Sun,
Before the heavens thou wert, and, at the voice
Of God, as with a mantle didst invest
The rising world of waters dark and deep,
Won from the void and formless infinite.

SOLAR PHENOMENA.

Light. The phenomena of light and vision have always been held to constitute a most interesting branch of natural science; whether in regard to the beauty of light, or its utility. The beauty is seen spread over a varied landscape—among the beds of the flower-gardens, on the spangled meads, in the plumage of birds, in the clouds around the rising and setting sun, in the circles of the rainbow. And the utility may be judged of by the reflexion, that had man been compelled to supply his wants by groping in utter and unchangeable darkness, even if originally created with the knowledge now existing in the world, he could scarcely have secured his existence for one day. Indeed, the earth without

light would have been an unfit abode even for grubs, generated and living always amidst their food. Eternal night would have been universal death. Light, then, while the beauteous garb of nature, clothing the garden and the meadow,—glowing in the ruby—sparkling in the diamond,—is also the absolutely necessary medium of communication between living creatures and the universe around them. The rising sun is what converts the wilderness of darkness which night covered, and which to the young mind, not yet aware of the regularity of Nature's changes, is so full of horror, into a visible and lovely paradise. No wonder, then, if in early ages of the world, man has often been seen bending the knee before the glorious luminary, and worshipping it as the God of Nature. When a mariner, who has been toiling in midnight gloom and tempest, at last perceives the dawn of day, or even the rising of the moon, the waves seem to him less lofty, the wind is only half as fierce, sweet hope beams on him with the light of heaven, and brings gladness to his heart. A man, wherever placed in light, receives by the eye from every object around—from hill and tree, and even a single leaf,—nay, from every point in every object, and at every moment of time, a messenger of light to tell him what is there, and in what condition. Were he omnipresent, or had he the power of flitting from place to place with the speed of the wind, he could scarcely be more promptly informed. And even in many cases, where distance intervenes not, light can impart at once, knowledge which, by any other conceivable means, could come only tediously, or not at all. For example, when the illuminated countenance is revealing the secret

workings of the heart, the tongue would in vain try to speak, even in long phrases, what one smile of friendship or affection can in an instant convey;—and had there been no light, man never could have been aware of the miniature worlds of life and activity which, even in a drop of water, the microscope discovers to him; nor could he have formed any idea of the admirable structure belonging to many minute objects. It is light, again, which gives the telegraph, by which men converse from hill to hill, or across an extent of raging sea, —and which, pouring upon the eye through the optic tube, brings intelligence of events passing in the remotest regions of space.

The relation of the sun to light is most strikingly marked in the contrast between night and day; as the relation between combustion and light is seen in the brilliancy of an illuminated hall or theatre, as compared with the perfect darkness when the chandeliers are extinguished. In tropical countries, where the sun rises almost perpendicularly, and allows not the long dawn and twilight of temperate latitudes, the change from perfect darkness to the overpowering effulgence of day, is so sudden as to be most impressive. An eye turned to the east has scarcely noted a commencing brightness there, when that brightness has already become a glow; and if clouds be floating near to meet the upward rays, they appear as masses of golden fleece suspended in the sky; a little after the whole atmosphere is bright, and the stream of direct light bending round, makes the lofty mountain-tops shine like burnished pinacles; then, as the stream reaches to still lower and lower levels, the inhabitants of these in succession see

the radiant circle first rising above the horizon like a tip of flame, but soon displaying, as in days of Pagan worship, all its breadth and glory,—too bright for the eye to dwell upon. With evening the same appearances recur in a reversed order, ending, as in the morning they began, in complete darkness.—*Arnot's Elements of Physics.*

In this month will occur on a large scale, an exemplification of that principle in the phenomena of light,—that when an opaque body intercepts the progress of this wonderful emanation, it leaves shadows where it cannot fall. On the 12th the moon will interpose its orb between the sun and earth, by which a solar eclipse will be produced, and on the 26th the earth will pass between the sun and moon, and hide from the latter a portion of the solar light. The following will be the circumstances of the first mentioned of these phenomena.

Eclipse of the Sun.

The sun will be eclipsed on the 12th of this month, but invisible to the British Isles. The ecliptic conjunction at $58\frac{1}{2}$ minutes after 4 in the afternoon. The eclipse will be central on the meridian at 5 hrs. 26 min. in longitude $81^{\circ}28\frac{3}{4}'$ West, and in latitude $30^{\circ}5\frac{1}{2}'$ North. It will be visible to the whole of North America, and northern provinces of South America.

The sun enters Pisces at 13 min. after 8 in the morning of the 19th of this month; his true place in the heavens is due south of Ancha in Aquarius.

LUNAR PHENOMENA.

Phases of the Moon.

Last Quarter	4th day at 13 m. after 8 in the evening.
New Moon	12th 59 4 in the afternoon.
First Quarter	19th 59 2
Full Moon	26th 50 4

Partial Eclipse of the Moon.

The moon will be partially eclipsed on the evening of the 26th of this month.

The following are the circumstances under which it will take place: viz.

	hrs.	min.
Beginning of the Eclipse	3	14½
Middle	4	42½
Ecliptic opposition	4	49½
Moon's upper limb rises.....	5	15
End of the Eclipse	6	11

Digits eclipsed $8^{\circ} 18'$ from the northern side of the Earth's shadow, or on the Moon's southern limb.

The eclipse will occur in Leo, 9 degrees east of Regulus; the moon will rise eclipsed E. by N. It will be visible to the greater part of Asia, Africa, and Europe.

Eclipses have, in all ages of the world, and classes of society, had a powerful effect on the mind; and though they are now dismantled of those terrors with which the bewildered imaginations of ignorance and superstition formerly clothed them, still they will always be regarded with intense curiosity, mingled with an indescribable feeling of awe. The following "Miscellaneous Notes on Eclipses" from the Literary Gazette, will, it is hoped, prove both amusing and instructive.

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES ON ECLIPSES.

Under the reign of Chou-Kang, Emperor of China, 2,169 years before Christ, happened an eclipse, the most ancient of which we have any records. Hi and Ho, two astronomers charged with composing a calendar for the regulation of husbandry, were put to death because they had neglected, through intoxication, to foretell it.

In China there is a tribunal of astronomy, the business of which is to calculate eclipses, and to present their types to the emperor and mandarins some months before they occur, with an account of the part of the heavens where they will happen,

and how many digits of the luminary will be eclipsed. When an eclipse is announced, preparation is made at court for the observance of it; as soon as it begins, a *blind man* beats a drum, upon which the mandarins and great officers mount their horses, and assemble in the great square of the palace.

An eclipse happened during Lord Macartney's embassy to China, which kept the emperor and his mandarins the whole day devoutly praying the gods that the moon might not be eaten up by the great dragon which was hovering about her: the next day a pantomime was performed, exhibiting the battle of the dragon and the moon, and in which two or three hundred priests, bearing lanterns at the end of long sticks, dancing and capering about, sometimes over the plain, and then over chairs and tables, bore no mean part.

The dramatic representation of the eclipse of the moon is thus described by De Guignes:—"A number of Chinese, placed at the distance of six feet from one another, now entered, bearing two long dragons of silk or paper, painted blue, with white scales, and stuffed with lighted lamps. These two dragons, after saluting the emperor with due respect, moved up and down with great composure; when the moon suddenly made her appearance, upon which they began to run after her; the moon, however, fearlessly placed herself between them and the two dragons, after surveying her for some time, and concluding, apparently, that she was too large a morsel for them to swallow, judged it prudent to retire, which they did with the same ceremony as they entered. The moon, elated with her triumph, then withdrew with prodigious gravity, a little flushed, however, with the chase which she had sustained."

Du Halde assures us, that the circumstances of no fewer than thirty-six eclipses of the sun are recorded by Confucius, out of which there are but two that are false and doubtful.

Eclipses, especially of the sun, have been always considered as events of the most portentous kind. Isaiah, and others of the sacred writers, speak of them as indicative of the wrath of the Almighty. Homer, Pindar, Pliny, and many others of the ancients, also make mention of them in a similar way; and it used to be noticed, more particularly by the superstitious, that

an eclipse was often accompanied by a national calamity, or an occurrence of a striking nature, the malevolent effects of which were to continue, for the sun, as many years as the eclipse lasted hours, and for the moon as many months. Dionysius of Halicarnassus remarks, that both at the birth and death of Romulus there was a total eclipse of the sun, during which the darkness was as great as at midnight. It is also said that there was a solar eclipse on the day the foundation of Rome was laid, 5th July, 754, B.C.

An eclipse of the moon is mentioned by Ptolemy to have been observed by the Chaldeans at Babylon 720 years before the birth of our Saviour; the middle of the eclipse reducing the time to the meridian of Paris, was 6 h. 48 m., March 19th. From this eclipse it is determined that the mean revolution of the moon is 27 d. 7 h. 43' 5". This is considered the first eclipse of the moon on record.

Thales rendered himself famous by foretelling an eclipse of the sun; he, however, only predicted the year in which it would happen, and this he was probably enabled to do by the Chaldean Saros, a period of 223 lunations. This eclipse is rendered remarkable by its happening just as the armies under Alyattes, king of Lydia, and Cyaxares the Mede, were engaged; and being regarded by each party as an evil omen, inclined both to make peace: it has been clearly proved that this eclipse occurred 610 years before Christ, September 30th.

Xenophon observes, that the King of the Persians laid siege to the city of Larissa at the time the empire was taken from the Medes, but was not able to make himself master of it; finally, a cloud coming over the sun made it disappear, so that the hearts of the inhabitants failed, and the city was taken. This cloud was, no doubt, the moon eclipsing the sun; for it appears that Cyrus finished the reduction of the Median empire, B.C. 547, in which year there was a great solar eclipse, the centre of which crossed the Tigris, not far from the place where Larissa was situated.

Anaxagoras, who lived about 530 B.C., is said to have predicted an eclipse of the sun, which, according to Thucydides, happened in the first year of the Peloponnesian war.

When the fleet of Pericles was about to proceed to the attack of Peloponnesus, and Pericles himself was on board the galley, there happened an eclipse of the sun, which was considered by the Athenians as a most unfavorable omen; and they were all thrown into the greatest consternation. The result of this would have, very probably, been a refusal to proceed on the expedition, had not Pericles, who was aware of the cause of the eclipse, explained it by holding up his mantle before the eyes of the pilot, and observing, that the deprivation was occasioned by the interposition of a much larger body in a similar way.

523, B.C., July 16th.—An eclipse of the moon, which was followed by the death of Cambyses.

502, B.C., November 19th.—An eclipse of the moon, succeeded by the slaughter of the Sabines, and the death of Valerius Publicola.

478, B.C.—When Xerxes undertook his expedition against Greece, in marching from Sardis, an eclipse of the sun took place, which so terrified the army, from its being considered an ill omen of their success, that Pytheas, who had a son in the army, entreated of Xerxes that he might be dismissed; which Xerxes not only refused, but ordered the young man to be cut asunder, the two parts of his body to be fixed up, and the army to march between them.

463, B.C., April 30th.—An eclipse of the sun. The Persian war, and the falling off of the Persians from the Egyptians.

431, B.C., April 25th.—An eclipse of the moon. A great famine at Rome. A plague over all the known world.

413, B.C., August 27th.—When Nicias, the Athenian general, had resolved to quit Sicily with his army, and every thing was ready for embarkation, there happened an eclipse of the moon, at which he was so alarmed, that he delayed his departure until it was too late; the consequence of which was, the loss of his army, and the death of himself.

394, B.C.—An eclipse of the sun. The Persians beaten by Conon in a sea-engagement.

168, B.C., June 21st.—A total eclipse of the moon. The next day, Perseus, king of Macedonia, was conquered by

Paulus Emilius. This eclipse was also observed at Rome, and predicted by Q. Sulpitius Gallus.

Seneca, who was born about the commencement of the Christian Era, relates from Posidonius, that during an eclipse of the sun a comet was seen, which had before been invisible by being near that luminary.

It is by a lunar eclipse that a mistake has been found in the Christian Era; for it is well known that Christ was born when Herod was king of Judea; and Josephus affirms, that just before the death of this Herod, there was an eclipse of the moon on the night between the 12th and 13th of March: but it has been clearly proved that this eclipse happened on the fourth year before what is considered the Christian Era; wherefore this era ought to be carried back three years at least.

Conjunctions of the Moon with the Planets and Stars.

February 10th,	with Mercury	....	at 7 evening.
11th,	.... Jupiter	.....	9 morning.
13th,	.... Venus	.....	6 evening.
18th,	.... Mars	.....	9 morning.
18th,	.... ϵ in Taurus	....	Midnight.
19th,	... γ in Taurus	....	8 evening.
26th,	.... Saturn	.....	Midnight.

PHENOMENA PLANETARUM.

Mercury will be stationary on the 7th of this month. At his greatest elongation on the 20th as a morning star; the circumstances for observation will be more favorable than when similarly situated the preceding month, being farther removed from the sun; its angular distance in January was only $18^{\circ} 58'$,—at the present elongation it is $26^{\circ} 40'$. 23rd. In conjunction with Jupiter, and only separated from him $4'$. At 2 in the afternoon of the 26th Mercury will be in conjunction with \S in Capricornus.

Venus, the evening star, is approaching the earth, consequently the apparent angle of its diameter is

increasing. This planet will be in conjunction with ϕ in Aquarius at 3 in the afternoon of the 19th.

Phases of Venus.

The proportions of the bright and dark phases of this planet are as follow :

February 1st.—Illuminated part = 11.8280

Dark part. = 0.1720

Mars will be in conjunction with δ in Aries, at 2 in the morning of the 25th.

The Asteroids.

The situations of these small planets, on the first of this month, are as follow :—

Vesta, a degree and a half south of ν in Pisces.

Juno, a degree and a half west of 12 in Cetus.

Pallas, a degree north of ζ in Serpens, a double star.

Ceres, a degree west of 1. 2. 3. X in Sagittarius.

Eclipses of the Satellites of Jupiter.

Owing to the proximity of Jupiter to the sun, and his great southern declination, there will occur no visible eclipses of his satellites this month.

Saturn in opposition, at 15 min. after 6 of the evening of the 17th of this month, and in its most favorable position for observation.

FORM OF SATURN'S RING.

February 9th, Semi-transverse axis. . . . 46''.44

Semi-conjugate axis 8 .06

When Galileo first discovered the ring that surrounds the orb of Saturn he veiled his discovery in the following enigma :—

“ Smaismrmilme poeta leumi bvne nugttaviras” :

which arranged in its true form, is,

“ Altissimum planetam tergeminum observavi” ;

and may be thus translated :—“ I have observed that

the most distant planet is triple,"—he having at first conceived that the ansæ were globes attached to each side of the orb of Saturn.

Uranus in conjunction with ♄ in Capricornus, at 5 in the morning of the 17th.

Sphere of the Fixed Stars.

Positions of the principal constellations, on the 1st day of the month, at eight in the evening.

The direction of the Zodiac is from the E. $\frac{1}{2}$ N. to the W. $\frac{1}{2}$ S. The vernal equinoctial point is W. by S. ; the tropic of Cancer S.S.E. $\frac{1}{2}$ E. Gemini and Cancer are E.S.E. Leo is due E. Taurus is on the meridian. Aries and Pisces are verging towards the west.

Orion is on the meridian. Canis Major is S.S.E. Canis Minor is S.E. Hydra is E.S.E. Monoceros S.E. by S. Draco in the N. Pegasus W. by N. Cygnus is N.W. $\frac{1}{2}$ N. Boötes rises N.E. by N. Ursa Major N.E. Coma Berenices N. E. by E. Leo Minor E. by N.

Telescopic Objects.

In the neighbourhood of the great nebula of Orion (see T. T. for 1829 for a minute history of this wonderful object,) are several smaller ones, which, when seen in the deep azure of the midnight sky, may be compared to isles of light, surrounding one of greater magnitude and brilliancy; one of these small nebulae appears as if condensing into a minute star; the sky, in the regions about these nebulous appearances, particularly in the openings of the large nebula, appears of unusual blackness, probably by contrast with the luminous objects, which render this part of the heavens so interesting as a field of telescopic research.

The superior brightness of Sirius, the brilliant star in Canis Major, especially when on the meridian, will add to the splendour of the heavens during the month; this is peculiarly the case with this beautiful gem, when examined as a telescopic object, especially after the eye has been excluded for some time from any extraneous light; under these circumstances it has been found impossible to bear its splendour; its advance has been announced at a great distance, like the dawn of the morning, and as it gradually approached, it increased in brightness, till its entrance into the field of view of the telescope was like the rising sun, and forced the eye to retire from the intensity of its effulgence.

Those starry wonders, everlasting worlds
Of life and loveliness,—I saw them all,
As on the magic wings of mystery borne
Methought my unembodied spirit swept
Immensity! Vast multitudes there shone
Of beauteous orbs, whose brightness was intense
Beyond the noon in its most sunny reign.—
Magnificent, along infinity
Of azure, moved these high immortal spheres,
Less terrible in beauty, but more shaped
To mortal vision;—as they onward roll'd
Each sounded like a world of melody!

ROBERT MONTGOMERY.

A TABLE

Of the Sun's rising and setting, Equation of Time, Transits and Meridional Altitudes of the Planets.

FEBRUARY.	SUN		Equation of Time add to appt. time	MERCURY.		VENUS.		MARS.		JUPITER.		SATURN.		URANUS.	
	rises.	sets.		Trans.	Alt.	Trans.	Alt.	Trans.	Alt.	Trans.	Alt.	Trans.	Alt.	Trans.	Alt.
Day.	h. m.	h. m.	m. s.	h. m.	° ' "	h. m.	° ' "	h. m.	° ' "	h. m.	° ' "	h. m.	° ' "	h. m.	° ' "
1st, Tuesday ..	7 28	4 32	13 52	11 0m	21 48	0 42a	22 59	5 8a	52 17	11 19m	18 32	1 9m	51 38	11 51m	20 20
7th, Monday ..	7 17	4 43	14 27	10 29	20 29	0 47	25 31	4 58	53 32	11 1	18 51	0 44	51 49	11 29	20 25
13th, Sunday ..	7 6	4 54	14 33	10 16	19 30	0 52	28 15	4 48	54 44	10 43	19 10	0 18	52 0	11 7	20 30
19th, Saturday ..	6 55	5 6	14 12	10 16	19 26	0 57	31 9	4 39	55 53	10 25	19 30	11 53a	52 10	10 45	20 35
25th, Friday ...	6 43	5 17	13 26	10 20	20 7	1 1	34 10	4 31	56 59	10 8	19 50	11 28	52 21	10 23	20 40

M A R C H.

We are reminded by the advance of the northern signs towards the sun, and the return of the southern to the eastern horizon, that the time of the singing of birds is at hand, and that the face of nature will soon resume its vernal beauty. Aries is advancing towards the west, followed by Taurus, to receive the glorious sun, which from amidst their quenched brilliancy, will diffuse the genial warmth of spring, and the more fervid heat of summer. Orion is bowing his splendid form westward of the meridian, and will soon appear with feeble beams, as if reclining on the rosy twilight of evening after the vigilance of the long and dreary night of winter. The Virgin and the Balance, as they approach the mid-heaven, revive the recollections of the bending corn, and the bounteous fruits of the autumnal season. These, or similar associations, united the cultivation of the science of astronomy with the pursuits of the remotest ages of antiquity : the courses of the stars regulated the wanderings of the pastoral tribes, marked the seasons of seed time and harvest, indicated the observance of their religious festivals and the period of the performance of their civil duties. The Hyades (termed by Virgil, Tristes Hyades) were considered the precursors of the rainy season ; the approach of the sun to the Pleiades

was the signal for the mariner to rouse from his inactivity and launch forth his bark, which had been laid up during the season of wintry storms; the overflowing of the Nile was indicated by the rising of Sirius, and the retreat of its waters by Aquarius; the labors of the vintage, and the re-appearance of Arcturus, are thus referred to by Hesiod:—

“ Now rosy fingered morn
Spies bright Arcturus rising from the deep;
Cull then, bring home your ripened grapes, and keep
Them full exposed ten long days to the sun.”

SOLAR PHENOMENA.

The sun enters Aries at 21 m. after 8 in the morning of the 21st of this month, and is vertical to the equator, passing from the southern to the northern hemisphere.

Zodiacal Light.

During this month, about an hour after sun-set, this wonderful phenomenon may be observed in the west, appearing as a luminous track in the heavens, in the form of a triangular beam, rather rounded at the vertex. It extends each way from the sun 45° , and sometimes 150° along the ecliptic, its horizontal base varying from 8° to 30° in breadth. It appears to surround the sun in the form of a lens, a plane through the edge of which inclines in a very small angle to the sun's apparent path, and bears some resemblance to the ring of Saturn as it is generally seen: the nature of its light seems analogous to the pellucid tail of a comet, though occasionally it exceeds in brightness the Via Lactea, and gradually vanishing into the surrounding blue of the heavens. In tropical countries it may be seen throughout the year, after sun-set and before sun-rise; it is not distinctly

visible in these latitudes, except near or at the equinoxes, owing to the highly illuminated atmosphere of the summer months, and the great obliquity of the sun's path in winter.

Many hypotheses have been formed to account for this phenomenon; it has been considered as the light proceeding from an infinite number of planets surrounding the sun within the orbit of Venus, somewhat similar to the united lustre of small stars that compose the milky way: there is, however, no doubt but that it accompanies the sun, and has some connexion with its atmosphere: it was perceived during a total eclipse of the sun in 1706.

LUNAR PHENOMENA.

Phases of the Moon.

Last Quarter 6th day at 11 m. after 5 in the afternoon.

New Moon 14th 49 5 morning.

First Quarter 20th 17 10 night.

Full Moon 28th 21 8 morning.

Conjunctions of the Moon with the Planets and Stars.

March 11th, with Jupiter... at 6 morning.

12th, Mercury .. 6 evening.

15th, Venus 4 afternoon.

18th, Mars 9 night.

25th, Saturn.... 4 morning.

25th, . . . Regulus .. 6

PHENOMENA PLANETARUM.

Mercury in aphelion on the 3rd. In conjunction with γ in Capricornus at midnight of the 4th, with ι in Aquarius on the 8th,—difference of latitude 8'.

Venus is too near the sun for satisfactory observation; this beautiful planet is however approaching the earth, and during the summer months will be a conspicuous

object on the brow of eve. On the 17th, at 10 at night, in conjunction with ζ in Pisces, a very beautiful double star.

Phases of Venus.

The proportions of the bright and dark phases of this planet are as follow:—

March 1st.—Illuminated part = 11.5093

Dark part. = 0.4907

Mars will approach very near, or entirely eclipse, 1 A in Taurus, at 13 min. after 11 of the night of the 17th, in conjunction with 2 κ in Taurus at 3 in the afternoon of the 25th.

The Asteroids.

The situations of these small planets, on the first of the month, are as follow:—

Vesta is a degree south-east of ζ in Cetus. Right ascension 2 h. 6 m. North declination $7^{\circ} 39'$.

Juno, two degrees south-east of 35 in Cetus. Right ascension 1 h. 8 m. North declination $0^{\circ} 19'$.

Pallas, one and a half degree west of μ in Aquila. Right ascension 19 h. 19 m. North declination $7^{\circ} 7'$.

Ceres, in Sagittarius, is not near any particular star to mark its situation. Right ascension 19 h. 56 m. South declination $24^{\circ} 6'$.

Neither of the asteroids are at present in a favorable position for observation.

Jupiter, in conjunction with 21 in Capricornus at 4 in the morning of the 3rd, difference of latitude $4'$, with Uranus at 7 in the evening of the 20th, difference of latitude $7'$.

Eclipses of the Satellites of Jupiter.

None of these will be visible this month.

FORM OF SATURN'S RING.

March 21st.—Semi-transverse axis ——— 45' .61

Semi-conjugate axis ——— 9 .00

Saturn will be in conjunction with Regulus at 9 in the morning of the 6th.

Uranus is gradually escaping from the solar rays.

Sphere of the Fixed Stars.

The following are the positions of the principal constellations at the vernal equinox, at 8 in the evening.

The ecliptic, from the east to the meridian, is occupied by Virgo, Leo, and Cancer successively; and from the west by Pisces, Aries, Taurus, and Gemini; Cancer being the Zodiacal constellation on the meridian.

The Via Lactea may be traced from the northern point of the horizon, west of the Zenith to the southern point of the horizon. The Lynx occupies the Zenith, to the west of which is Auriga. Leo Minor is E. by S. Coma Berenices is E. $\frac{1}{2}$ N. Bootes is E.N.E. The Greyhound, Asterion and Chara, E. by N. Corona Borealis has just cleared the horizon in the N.E. Ursa Major is N.E. $\frac{1}{2}$ E.

South of the Ecliptic are the Crater S.E. by E. Canis Minor, Canis Major, and Monoceros S. S. W. Orion S.W. $\frac{1}{2}$ W. Cetus W.S.W.

North of the Zodiac are Perseus W.N.W. Andromeda N.W. $\frac{1}{2}$ W. Cassiopeia N.W. by N. Cygnus and Lyra in the North, the bright star in the latter just skirting the horizon.

Telescopic Objects.

The Via Lactea may be considered an immense nebula, consisting of extensive congeries of many millions of stars; it is supposed that our sun is placed in it,

and forming but a unit amidst the myriads of stars of which it is composed, and sinking into insignificance if conceived to be beheld from one of its own cluster, while, perhaps, even this cluster sinks into a telescopic cloud when seen from a neighbouring system. This idea is supported by considering our sun as placed in such a nebula as we find near δ in Gemini; this being of a form, probably similar to the Galaxy, and to a solar system in the interior of this, the stars would be projected into a concave arch, those stars at the side and nearest would appear as of a superior magnitude and brilliancy to the rest, analogous to the Arcturus, Lyra, Sirius, Canopus, &c. of our sidereal system.

In Asterion, the north gre-hound of Bootes, is a nebula, surrounded by three small stars; and in the hind foot of Chara, the southern gre-hound is another. Near the right ear of the Great Bear, are two nebulae very close together, one of which is elongated with a telescopic star at its extremity; the other, which is south, is round, and more conspicuous. On the knee of Auriga is a mass of stars of a square form, 15' in diameter; there are two other clusters of a less magnitude in its neighbourhood. Above the southern horn of Taurus is a faint mottled light, resembling in form a comet, or electrical brush. Below the southern claw of Cancer is an oblong, compressed cluster, in which 200 stars may be distinguished. Close to the Triangle, over the head of Aries, is a fine nebula exhibiting an uniform whitish light. In Perseus there are no fewer than eight nebulae. The brightest nebula in the heavens, next to the Via Lactea, that in the sword handle of Orion, and the Magellanic clouds near the South Pole, is the nebula

in the girdle of Andromeda, which is easily distinguished with a telescope; it resembles two cones of light, united at their bases; it is 40' in length, and 15' in breadth; there is reason to believe, that it is undergoing some mysterious changes, it being formerly described as equally bright in all its parts; at present it exhibits the appearance of condensation towards its centre, in which there is a faint resemblance to a star-like nucleus.

I pass the crystal airs and ether void,
The stars, the galaxy, the tidings light,—
And, upward on the wings of fancy buoyed,
I reach the bounds of uncreated night :
And in this scene of beauty and of fear,
I can forget my tenement of clay
And call around me forms for ever dear,
Of hungry death the unforgotten prey.

• • • • •
I place thee on the grand and awful bounds
Of darkness and of light; on the right hand,
Far sweep away, in distance measureless,
Countless in number, horrible in size,
The masses of Creation; on they roll,
And rise and wheel in space, descend and climb,
A twining knot of circles, wreathing round,
The garland of our GOD.

Creation, a Poem, by William Ball.

TABLE

Of the Sun's rising and setting, Equation of Time, Transits and Meridional Altitudes of the Planets.

MARCH.	SUN		Equation of Time add to	MERCURY.		VENUS.		MARS.		JUPITER.		SATURN.		URANUS.	
	rises.	sets.		Trans.	Alt.	Trans.	Alt.	Trans.	Alt.	Trans.	Alt.	Trans.	Alt.	Trans.	Alt.
Day, Tuesday ..	h. m. 6 36	h. m. 5 24	m. 12 43	h. m. 10 26	° ' 21 2	h. m. 1 44	° ' 36 12	h. m. 4 26	° ' 57 40	h. m. 9 57	° ' 20 3	h. m. 11 12	° ' 52 27	h. m. 10 9	° ' 20 51
7th, Monday ..	6 24	5 36	11 23	10 38	23 3	1 9	39 19	4 19	58 39	9 40	20 24	10 48	52 37	9 48	20 55
13th, Sunday ..	6 12	5 48	9 50	10 51	25 51	1 14	42 24	4 12	59 32	9 23	20 43	10 25	52 46	9 27	21 0
19th, Saturday ..	6 06	0	8 7	11 7	29 25	1 19	45 28	4 5	60 21	9 6	21 3	10 1	52 54	9 6	21 4
25th, Friday ...	5 49	6 11	6 17	11 24	33 41	1 25	48 25	3 59	61 5	8 49	21 22	9 38	53 1	8 45	21 9

A P R I L.

SOLAR PHENOMENA.

He comes, behold !
The king of glory ! Round his head divine,
Diffusive showers of radiance circling flow ;
As o'er the Indian wave, up-rising fair,
He looks abroad on Nature, and invests,
Where'er his universal eye surveys,
Her ample bosom, earth, air, sea and sky,
In one bright robe, with heavenly tinctures gay.

The sun enters Taurus at 47 min. after 8 in the evening of the 20th of this month.

“ The great natural source of heat is the Sun. To be assured of this, it is only necessary to think of the comparative temperatures of night and day, of climates and of seasons, and to reflect that the sun is the sole cause of the differences. We need not wonder, then, that, to many savage nations, seeking the source of their life and happiness, the sun has been the object, not only of admiration, but of worship.

“ There are few contrasts in nature more striking than some of the consequences of different intensity of the sun's influence:—that for instance, of the inhabitants of India, at mid-day, in the hot season, with the thermometer at 120°, running to the shade of their bungalows, darkening their windows, hanging wetted mats upon the

walls and roofs, and sprinkling the floors, fanning themselves with ever-moving punkas, and feeling the slightest covering or exertion too much—while on the other hand, the dwellers in Greenland, with the thermometer below Zero, are loaded with furs, and are seeking the direct sunshine or heat from a fire, as their life and comfort. Again, there is a contrast observed on passing, in ten days, from such a paradise as Rio de Janeiro, with all its vegetable riches, to Tristan da Cunha, and the Isle of Desolation in the Southern Ocean, which exhibit only cold and naked rocks; but yet where the scene was swarming with its appropriate inhabitants—the sea with seals, and the air with clouds of sea-fowl, playing over the never resting waves like flakes of eddying snow. Were a person for a moment to doubt whether the sun be the real cause of such differences, and of certain creatures being found only in certain zones of the earth, let him reflect on the extraordinary migration of animals, which have their home, not in any fixed region, but wherever the sun has for a time a particular degree of influence, and which accordingly follow the sun in the changes of season;—all by their movements contributing to the harmonious and beneficent system of the universe.

“ With respect to the sun as a source of heat, there have been two opinions among philosophers; one class believing that the sun is an intensely heated mass, which radiates its heat and light around, like a mass of intensely heated iron: and another class holding that heat is merely an affection or state of an ethereal fluid, which occupies all space, as sound is an affection or motion of air, and that the sun may produce the phenomena of light and heat without waste of its tem-

perature or substance, as a bell may without waste continue to produce sound: holding farther, that the sun below its luminous atmosphere may be habitable even by such animals as live on this earth. Those who take the first view, are awakened to the dread contemplation of a universe carrying in itself, if its laws remain constant, the seeds of its certain decay, or at least of great periodical revolutions: the others may view the universe as destined to last nearly unchanged, until a new act of the will of the Creator shall again alter or destroy it."—*Arnott's Elements of Physics.*

LUNAR PHENOMENA.

Phases of the Moon.

Last Quarter	5th	day at	3 min.	after Noon.
New Moon	12th	....	0	..... 4 afternoon.
First Quarter	19th	....	27	..... 6 morning.
Full Moon	26th	....	19	..... Midnight.

Conjunctions of the Moon with the Planets and Stars.

April 8th,	with Jupiter	....	at 1	in the morning.
13th,	.... Mercury	....	4	
14th,	.... Venus	.....	Midnight.	
15th,	.... γ in Taurus	..	10	morning.
15th,	.... Aldebaran	..	5	afternoon.
16th,	.... Mars	.....	11	morning.
21st,	.... Saturn	.....	8	morning.

LUMIÈRE CENDRÉE.

Shortly before and after conjunction, or new moon, if the sky be serene, that part of the disc of the moon not enlightened by the sun, is seen within the delicate illuminated crescent; this secondary light is called by the French philosophers *lumière cendrée*, and under very favorable circumstances has been observed when the moon was nine days and fourteen hours old. Some have

considered this appearance as the native light of the moon, and of a phosphorescent nature; there can, however, be no question, but that it is the reflection of the light from our earth, which to the lunar inhabitants (if any) will then appear as a gibbous moon. A brighter reflection on this obscure part has been observed when the continents of the earth were opposite to the moon, than when the Pacific or Atlantic Oceans were similarly situated.

There's but a border of the fair moon up,
 A shallow crescent, in whose silver breast
 May be descried, all shadowy, the rest
 Close-cradled, as an acorn in its cup:
 It is our Earth, I've read, that thus doth light
 Thy face, fair Moon; and from thy sphere perchance
 Eyes even now on this world fix their glance
 In wonder at the planet of their night;
 For such are we to thee, as thou to us,—
 Bright partners of the sky, each other's gloom,
 Cheering with smile of mutual fondliness:
 Ye lifeless masses, rays of love illumine,
 While me, a living soul, th' entombing cloud
 Of loneliness hath wrapt, as in a desolate shroud.

PHENOMENA PLANETARUM.

Mercury in his superior conjunction, at 15 min. after 7 in the morning of the 6th. In his ascending node at 5 in the afternoon of the 11th. Attains his perihelion at 6 in the morning of the 16th. On the 20th approaches within 3' of ρ in Aries. At 4 in the afternoon of the 22nd in conjunction with δ in Aries, difference of latitude 4'.

Venus in her ascending node on the afternoon of the 4th. In conjunction with δ in Aries on the 12th, and with 1 A in Taurus on the 22nd, difference of latitude 6'.

In conjunction with ν in Taurus on the 26th, difference of latitude $2'$.

Phases of Venus.

The proportions of the light and dark phases of this planet are as follow :

April 1st.—Illuminated disc = 10.9980

Dark part..... = 1.0711

Mars on the 6th in conjunction with 179 Mayer, difference of latitude $4'$. At 6 in the evening of the 25th in conjunction with 132 in Taurus, difference of latitude $12'$.

The Asteroids.

The situations of these small planets on the 2nd of this month will be as follow :—

Vesta is not near any star to indicate its situation. Its right ascension is 2 hrs. 54 min. North declination $12^{\circ} 32'$.

Juno is $2\frac{1}{2}$ degrees west of ν in Cetus. Right ascension 2 hrs. 17 min. North declination 6° .

Pallas is in the Via Lactea, near ϕ in Aquila, and two small nebulae; in its neighbourhood are several double and triple stars. Right ascension 19 hrs. 49 min. North declination $10^{\circ} 58'$.

Ceres is $\frac{3}{4}$ of a degree east of 1687 in Capricornus. Right ascension 20 hrs. 41 min. South declination 23° .

Eclipses of the Satellites of Jupiter.

The following is the only one that will be visible this month :—

IMMERSION.

First satellite, 25th day at 44 min. after 3 in the morning.

REMARKABLE CONFIGURATIONS OF THE SATELLITES,

At $\frac{3}{4}$ past 4 in the morning.

On the 10th day the first satellite will be on the disc,

and the third in the shadow of Jupiter; the second and fourth to the west. On the 14th day all the satellites will be on the west of the primary, and on the 20th all to the east. On the 24th the first and fourth satellites will be in conjunction to the east of Jupiter, and the second and third in conjunction on the west side.

Saturn will be stationary on the 28th.

FORM OF SATURN'S RING.

April 30th, Semi-transverse axis ——— 42".89

Semi-conjugate axis..... ——— 8 .80

Uranus, on the 1st, is a degree and a half south of 29 in Capricornus.

Sphere of the Fixed Stars.

Positions of the principal constellations on the 20th of April, at 9 in the evening.

Ursa Major is in the zenith, the pointers on the meridian, and between the Zenith and the Pole. *Leo*, *Crater*, and *Hydra* are on the meridian south of the Zenith. In the east are *Corona Borealis*, *Bootes* and the tail of *Ursa Major*. *Lyra* is N.E. above which are *Draco*, and *Ursa Minor*. *Cygnus* is ascending N.N.E.

Coma Berenices, *Virgo*, and *Corvus* are in the S.E. quarter of the heavens. *Libra* rising E.S.E.

Cancer, *Gemini*, and *Taurus* are descending the steep of heaven. The belt of *Orion* is near, and parallel to the horizon in the west. *Sirius* is setting W.S.W. *Canis Minor* and *Monoceros* are following in the train of *Orion*.

Auriga, *Perseus*, and *Andromeda* are declining in the N.W. quarter of the heavens. *Cassiopeia* approaching the meridian below the pole.

Telescopic Objects.

Double stars are the best tests of the excellency of the telescope employed in examining them; through a good glass, they appear with discs accurately defined, and with a dark space between them, very few telescopes, however, will bear this trial, as they generally exhibit the fixed stars as surrounded with ever varying prismatic colours. The eye should be familiarised to the glass by examining first a star known to be single.

γ in Andromeda is a double star, and one of the most beautiful objects in the heavens; the striking difference in the colours of the two stars, (the smallest a fine light sky-blue, the largest of a reddish tint) suggests the idea of a sun, and its planet.

ϵ in Lyra is a very curious double-double star; at the first inspection it appears but a double star, but on a closer examination it will be seen that each star is a delicate double star.

α in Hercules is a beautiful double star; the large star is red, the small one is blue, inclining to green.

η in Corona Borealis is a double star.

Algol in Perseus is a variable star, it changes from the 2nd to the 4th magnitude in 2 days 20 hrs. 48 min. 58.7 sec.

The 30th star of Hydra is also a variable star; it is of the 4th magnitude when at its full brightness, and suffers no perceptible change for about a fortnight; in six months it decreases to the 10th magnitude, and continues invisible for six months; its period is supposed to be 494 days.

α in Draco is a variable star; its greatest and least

magnitude is the 2nd and 4th—this star 4630 years since was the polar star.

This earth, thy temple, edifice immense,
 Arched over by yon sapphire vault sublime,
 Within whose span I worship thee in love ;
 This earth is a poor mote, an outwork mean,
 On thy creation's farthest verge forlorn,
 With our blind planets all, and our small sun,
 A petty captain of the universe
 Leading a straggling troop of slight regard :
 These things I see, these minor things admire,
 And contemplate in vain. How rise to thee ?
 Oh, GOD ineffable ! low, very low,
 I sink before thy throne magnificent,
 Beneath thy footstool, yonder starry cope.

Creation, by W. Ball.

Now the hour

When contemplation, from her sunless haunts
 Moves forward, and with radiant finger points
 To yon blue concave, swell'd by breath divine,
 Where one by one the living eyes of heaven
 Awake, quick kindling o'er the face of ether
 One boundless blaze ; ten thousand trembling fires
 And dancing lustres, where the unsteady eye,
 Restless and dangled, wanders unconfined
 O'er all this field of glory—spacious field,
 And worthy of its Maker.

A TABLE

Of the Sun's rising and setting, Equation of Time, Transits and Meridional Altitudes of the Planets.

APRIL.	SUN		Equation of Time add to appt. time	MERCURY.		VENUS.		MARS.		JUPITER.		SATURN.		URANUS.	
	riset.	set.		Trans.	Alt.	Trans.	Alt.	Trans.	Alt.	Trans.	Alt.	Trans.	Alt.	Trans.	Alt.
Day.	h. m.	h. m.	m. s.	h. m.	o ' "	h. m.	o ' "	h. m.	o ' "	h. m.	o ' "	h. m.	o ' "	h. m.	o ' "
1st, Friday....	5 34	6 26	4 7	11 47m	39 31	1 32a	51 42	3 52a	61 48	8 29m	21 44	9 11a	53 7	8 21m	21 9
7th, Thursday.	5 22	6 38	2 19	0 6a	45 1	1 38	54 18	3 47	62 18	8 11	22 2	8 49	53 12	8 0	21 12
13th, Wednesday	5 17	6 49	0 40	0 30	50 36	1 45	56 40	3 41	62 43	7 53	22 19	8 26	53 15	7 39	21 15
19th, Tuesday..	4 59	7 1	0 47	0 53	55 34	1 53	58 46	3 35	63 1	7 34	22 34	8 3	53 17	7 18	21 18
25th, Monday...	4 46	7 12	2 2	1 12	59 17	2 0	60 33	3 29	63 13	7 15	22 49	7 41	53 17	6 57	21 21

M A Y.

SOLAR PHENOMENA.

In wonder risest thou, material orb!
And youthfulness—a symbol and a sign:
Change, revolution, age, decay, absorb
All other essences, but harm not thine:
In thy most awful face reflected shine
Thy mother's attributes, Celestial Child!
When shapelessness ruled chaos, the Divine
Looked on the void tumultuous mass and smiled—
Then startedst thou to birth, and trodst the pathless wild.
Wiffen.

The sun enters Gemini at 6 min. after 9 of the evening of the 21st of this month.

SOLAR SPOTS. Some astronomers have hazarded the idea, that there may be a connexion between the frequency of this singular phenomenon, and the uncertain character of the seasons. Independent, however, of the want of a long continued series of observations, so necessary to form a theory, the opinions of those who have at all attended to the subject are at variance, some considering the spots as concomitants of a cold humid season; and others of excessive heat and drought. A long space of time occasionally occurs when the sun's orb has been observed to be free from these appearances;—from the year 1650 to 1670 scarcely any spots were

visible: a similar purity of disc was noticed about a century since, so as nearly to sanction the opinion of the bigotted persecutors of Galileo—that the sun was immaculate, “without spot or wrinkle, or any such thing.” For some years past, the sun has exhibited these spots, with scarcely an interruption, and occasionally in great numbers and magnitude.

The occasional deficiency of brilliancy, observed in the sun by ancient writers, might possibly be owing to the orb being copiously covered with spots. A. D. 321, the Chinese annals have an account of spots seen in the sun, visible to the naked eye. A. D. 807, a large spot was observed for eight days. In 1547, there is recorded a very general deficiency of solar light, which might be owing to numerous small spots. These mysterious appearances on the central globe of the system have furnished a very plausible explanation of the phenomenon of variable stars. These are considered to be suns, which have large permanent spots unequally distributed on their orbs, that when, by rotation, that side which is least covered with these spots is turned towards the earth, then the maximum of brilliancy occurs; and that when that side which is most covered is similarly directed, then its minimum of light appears. The following are some of this description;—Algol, in Perseus; β in Lyra; η in Antinous; δ in Cepheus; κ in Hercules, and a star in Sobieski's shield, which latter star goes through all its changes in 62 days.

A singular circumstance has been noticed in solar observations—that the spots near the limb require the focus of the telescope to be shorter than for those near the centre of the disc. This has been attributed to the

R

superior brilliancy of the central parts. The bright planets, Jupiter and Venus, require a different focus to the less bright planets, Mars and Saturn.

The cloudless skies, during a considerable part of October, 1880, afforded an opportunity of tracing, with very little interruption, a very remarkable cluster of solar spots from their entrance on the disc of the sun, to their disappearance. The following are some of the observations.

On the 13th, a confused appearance was noticed on the south-east limb, a luminosity brighter than the rest of the disc, mingled with a dark mottled shadowing. The appearance of the solar disc was at this time as in the following diagram; the cluster more particularly referred to being situated at E.

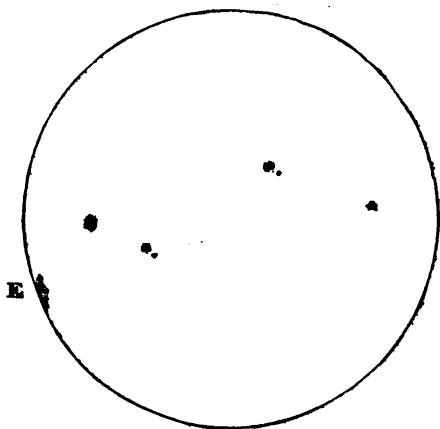


Fig. 1. 14th day.—This cluster of spots, considerably magnified, had the following appearance :

Fig. 2. 16th day.—The northern double spot had coalesced into one, from which proceeded a channel in a south-east direction ; a connexion also seemed to be forming between the middle and the southern spot, which had altered considerably in its form :

Fig. 3. 18th day.—The channels in the neighbourhood of each spot had either disappeared, altered their course, or new ones had formed :

Fig. 1.



Fig. 2.



Fig. 3.



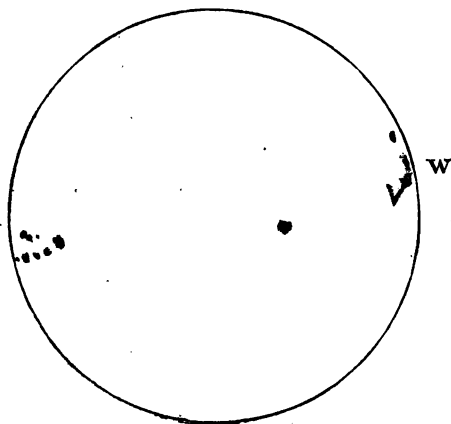
Fig. 4. 20th day.—The middle spot had diminished in magnitude ; a complete connection formed between the two southern ones :

Fig. 5. 21st day.—The middle spot more diminished, and a new one formed to the south of it :

Fig. 6. 23d day.—The cluster had arrived near the north-west edge of the disc :

Fig. 4.*Fig. 5.**Fig. 6.*

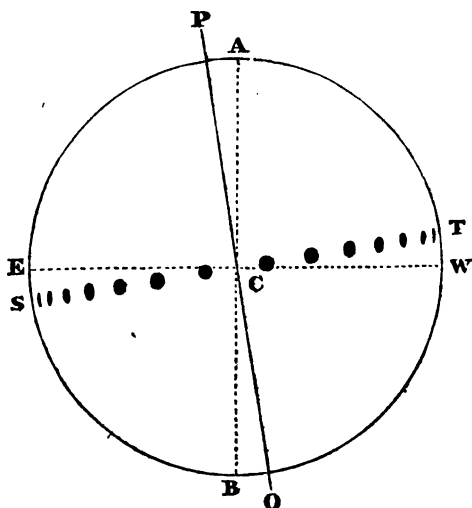
The disc of the sun at this time (23d day) had the following appearance ; the situation of the cluster, the course of which has been traced, is indicated by W. :



Some of the changes in the form and appearance of these spots resulted from the globular form of the sun, but chiefly from the existence of a principle of action in the solar orb, of the nature of which it is impossible to form an adequate idea.

From the unequal motions of the spots, it is evident that the sun is a globe; when a spot enters on the eastern edge of the disc, it moves onward with a motion continually increasing, till it has completed half its course across the disc, it then advances with a retarded motion, till it disappears at the western limb of the sun. This apparent inequality is purely optical, and is in such proportion as demonstrates that the solar spots are carried round equally in a circle, the plane of which continued, passes through or near to the eye of a terrestrial spectator.

From the motion of the spots it is ascertained that the rotation of the sun is performed in 25 days 14 hrs. 8 min.; also that its axis is inclined $7\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ from a perpendicular to the plane of the earth's orbit. The following diagram will point out the daily progress of a spot; its alternate accelerated and retarded motion, and the position of the axis of revolution :—



The circle represents the sun's disc. **ECW** the ecliptic, or tract opposite the earth's orbit. **AB** the poles of the ecliptic.

ST the path of a spot for every day of its continuing visible on the disc, entering on the eastern side at **S**, and disappearing at the western edge at **T**; the spot narrow at the edges of the disc, and of its true shape in the centre.

PO the axis of the motion of the spot. **P** the north pole of the sun. **O** the south pole. Then, the angle **ACP** is the measure of the inclination of the sun's axis from a perpendicular to the earth's path, namely, $7\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$.

When the earth is in the nodes of the sun's equator, it being then in its plane, the spots appear to describe straight lines: this happens about the beginning of June

and December. As the earth recedes from the nodes, the path of a spot grows more and more elliptical, till the earth gets 90° from the nodes, which takes place about the beginning of September and March.

LUNAR PHENOMENA.

Phases of the Moon.

Last Quarter	5th day at 35 min. after 3 morning.
New Moon	12th 1 midnight.
First Quarter	18th 12 4 afternoon.
Full Moon	26th 0 4

Conjunctions of the Moon with the Planets and Stars.

May 5th, with Jupiter.....	at 4 in the afternoon.
13th, Mercury	3 morning.
14th, Venus	10
15th, Mars.....	3
18th, Saturn	2 afternoon.
18th, Regulus	5
21st, 1γ in Virgo....	10 night.

LUNAR VOLCANOS.

Luminous appearances have at various times been seen on the obscure part of the lunar disc. During the annular eclipse of the 24th of June, 1778, a bright white spot was observed near the north-west limb, which continued visible a minute and a quarter. A luminous point has also been observed near Heraclides, which resembled a small nebula, or star of the sixth magnitude. In 1794, a very brilliant spot was seen on the unenlightened disc, which continued visible for five minutes. A luminous appearance was also observed on the dark part of the moon in May, 1821. Herschel has discovered volcanos in the moon, emitting fire, similar to those on the earth: one of these, as late as the year 1826, was observed to be apparently burning with great activity.

In the great lunar eclipse of September 2, of the last year (1830), when the moon was wholly plunged in the earth's shadow, a luminous point was suspected to the north of the moon's centre.

MOON LIGHT.

Queen of the starry sky! at thy approach
Night's ebon vest is thrown aside—and forth
In silent majesty thou walk'st the heavens;
While round thee countless orbs, intensely bright,
Declare the glory of th' Eternal One,
Who shines in all—who formed the wondrous whole.

PHENOMENA PLANETARUM.

Mercury will be at his greatest elongation as an evening star, at 6 in the morning of the 3d of this month; the angular distance from the sun $21^{\circ} 3'$. 14th day, stationary. In his descending node, at 2 in the morning of the 20th. Inferior conjunction on the 26th at 30 min. after noon. In aphelion at 6 in the morning of the 30th.

Venus in conjunction with 179 Mayer, on the 2d, difference of latitude $3'$. In perihelion on the 7th at 11 at night. In conjunction with 132 in Taurus at 9 in the evening of the 12th, and with ϵ in Gemini at 7 in the morning of the 23d, difference of latitude $4'$.

Phases of Venus.

The following are the proportions of the light and dark phases of Venus:

May 1st.—Illuminated disc = 10.0996

Dark part..... = 1.9004

Mars in conjunction with ϵ in Gemini, at 7 in the evening of the 15th, with 1ω on the 22d; difference of latitude $12'$, and with m on the 25th, difference of lati-

tude 23'; also with Venus at 7 in the morning of the 31st.

The Asteroids.

Vesta, on the 4th of this month, will be a degree east of 129 in Taurus, and on the 25th in conjunction with Aldebaran. Right ascension 3 hrs. 48 min. North declination $16^{\circ} 39'$.

Juno, on the 4th, will be a degree and a quarter west of 30, a double star in Taurus. Right ascension 3 hrs. 31 min. North declination $10^{\circ} 46'$.

Pallas, on the 4th, will be three quarters of a degree north of ρ in Aquilla. Right ascension 20 hrs. 7 min. North declination $15^{\circ} 20'$.

Ceres, on the 4th, will be half a degree north of ζ in Capricornus. Right ascension 21 hrs. 17 min. South declination $22^{\circ} 25'$.

None of the asteroids are in favourable situations for observation this month.

Jupiter in conjunction with 1 d in Capricornus on the 8th, difference of latitude $30'$. In quadrature at 30 min. after 11 of the morning of the 12th.

Eclipses of the Satellites of Jupiter.

The following is the only one that will be visible this month :—

IMMERSION.

Third satellite, 30th day at 31 min. 6 sec. after 1 in the morning.

REMARKABLE CONFIGURATIONS OF THE SATELLITES, At 3 in the morning.

On the 3d all the satellites to the east of Jupiter, the first and fourth in conjunction. On the 4th, 11th, and 27th, the first satellite in the shadow of the primary. On the 10th the first appears above the second satellite,

and the fourth above the third satellite, all to the east of the planet. On the 19th the first on the disc, and the fourth in the shadow, the second and third equally distant from the primary. On the 20th the second and third in conjunction. On the 29th the first and second in conjunction.

Saturn in quadrature at 30 min. after 11 of the morning of the 16th.

FORM OF SATURN'S RING.

May 10th, Semi-transverse axis.... 42".16

Semi-conjugate axis.... 8 .52

Uranus in quadrature at 45 min. after 4 of the afternoon of the 5th. Stationary on the 18th.

Sphere of the Fixed Stars.

The atmospheric illumination of the nights of summer is unfavourable for an examination of minute telescopic objects; to vary the scene, it is proposed to pass in imagination to the southern hemisphere, and survey the starry host, as it appears to many of our countrymen in Van Dieman's Land.

Positions of the principal constellations on the 1st of the month, at 8 in the evening, as seen from

VAN DIEMAN'S LAND.

The Zodiac. Sagittarius is rising S.E. by E. Scorpio E. by S. Libra east. Virgo N.E. Leo on the meridian. Cancer N.W. by N. Gemini setting N.W.

North of the Zodiac. Coma Berenices, and part of Böotes between the east and north. The feet of Ursa Major rising above the horizon in the north. On the meridian Leo minor.

South of the Zodiac. Crater N.E. by N. Corvus N. E. by E. Centaurus and Lupus E.S.E. Crux,

Triangulum, **Ara**, and **Telescopium** S.E. by **S. Apus**, **Pavo**, and **Indus** S. by **E. Monoceros** and **Canis Minor** N.W. **Argo Navis** and **Canis Major** W.N.W. **Orion** setting in the west. **Columba**, **Brandenburgium** **Spectrum** W. by **S. Pisces Volans**, **Dorado**, **Fornax** **Chemica**, S.W. by **W. Reticulus**, **Horologium**, and **Phoenix**, S.W. by **S. The meridian** north of the zenith divides **Hydra**. In the zenith **Machina Pneumatica**. South of the zenith **Robor Caroli** and the **Chameleon**. Below the pole **Octans**, **Toucan**, and **Grus**, skirting the southern horizon.

Telescopic Objects.

Near ϵ in **Sagittarius** are several nebulae. 1400 and 1395 in **Scorpio** are nebulae. η and σ in **Argo Navis** are stars of the second and third magnitudes, and each surrounded with a numerous assemblage of small ones. **Canopus** is a very bright star in the rudder of **Argo Navis**. Near d in **Hydra** is a nebula. 1 and 2 β in **Toucan** is a double star, both of a yellow colour. The most remarkable appearances in the southern celestial hemisphere are the splendid **Magellanic clouds** near the south pole: the largest, called **Nubecula Major**, is in **Mons Mensa**, the other **Nebecula Minor** is in **Hydrus**; the largest is upwards of two degrees in breadth, the other about one degree; to the naked eye they appear of the same nature as the **Via Lactea**, and through a telescope like a combination of stars and clouds.

The Constellations round the arctic pole,
That never set to us, here scarcely rose;
But in their stead, Orion through the north
Pursued the Pleiads; Sirius with his keen
Quick scintillations, in the zenith reigned.

The south unveiled its glories—there the Wolf,
 With eyes of lightning, watched the Centaur's spear;
 Through the clear hyaline, the ship of Heaven
 Came sailing from eternity; the Dove,
 On silver pinions, winged her peaceful way;
 There at the footstool of Jehovah's throne,
 The Altar kindled from his presence blazed;
 There too, all else excelling, meekly shone
 The Cross, the symbol of redeeming love:
 The heavens declared the glory of the Lord,
 The firmament displayed his handy work.

Montgomery.

* * *

Between two worlds life hovers like a star,
 'Twixt night and morn, upon the horizon's verge:
 How little do we know that which we are!
 How less what we may be! The eternal surge
 Of tide and time rolls on, and bears afar
 Our bubbles; as the old burst, new emerge,
 Lashed from the foam of ages; while the graves
 Of empires heave but like some passing waves.

Byron.

• • •

Ye worlds of light that roll so near
 My father's throne of shining bliss;
 O tell how mean your glories are,
 How faint and cold compared with his!
 O joy to reach that happy place
 From sickness and from sorrow far;
 Where through the boundless fields of space,
 For ever shines the Morning Star.

A TABLE

Of the Sun's rising and setting, Equation of Time, Transits and Meridional Altitudes of the Planets.

MAY.	SUN		Equation of Time subt. from appt. time	MERCURY.		VENUS.		MARS.		JUPITER.		SATURN.		URANUS.	
	ris.	sets.		Trans.	Alt.	Trans.	Alt.	Trans.	Alt.	Trans.	Alt.	Trans.	Alt.	Trans.	Alt.
	h. m.	h. m.		h. m.	o ' /	h. m.	o ' /	h. m.	o ' /	h. m.	o ' /	h. m.	o ' /	h. m.	o ' /
Day.	h. m.	h. m.	m. s.	h. m.	o ' /	h. m.	o ' /	h. m.	o ' /	h. m.	o ' /	h. m.	o ' /	h. m.	o ' /
1st, Sunday...	4 35	7 25	2 59	1 22a	61 31	2 8a	61 58	3 23a	63 19	6 55m	23 2	7 18a	53 17	6 33m	21 22
7th, Saturday..	4 24	7 36	3 37	1 21	62 19	2 16	63 0	3 16	63 18	6 35	23 13	6 56	53 14	6 10	21 23
13th, Friday....	4 14	7 46	3 54	1 8	61 51	2 24	63 38	3 9	63 10	6 14	23 23	6 33	53 11	5 47	21 24
19th, Thursday.	4 57	55	3 50	0 42	60 20	2 32	63 50	3 2	62 56	5 52	23 31	6 10	53 6	5 24	21 24
25th, Wednesday	3 57	8 3	3 28	0 8	58 9	2 39	63 37	2 54	62 35	5 29	23 37	5 47	53 1	5 1	21 23

J U N E.

SOLAR PHENOMENA.

These are thy glorious works, Almighty Sire !
 Whose Spirit warms us in the solar fire ;
 In their vast orbits rolls the ponderous spheres,
 And leads in radiant march the circling years.

The sun enters Cancer at 38 min. after 5 in the morning of the 22nd of this month. The declination of the sun at this period measures the obliquity of the Ecliptic. The following are the observed values of this angle from 230 years before Christ to the year 1827 :—

Eratosthenes	230 B.C.	23° 51' 20"
Hipparchus	140.	23 51 20
Ptolemy	140 A.C.	23 51 10
Pappus	390.	23 30 0
Albategnius	880.	23 35 40
Arzachel	1070.	23 34 0
Cocheou-King	1278.	23 32 12
Prophatius	1300.	23 32 0
Ulug-beg	1437.	23 30 27
Regiomontanus	1460.	23 30 0
Waltherus	1490.	23 29 47
Copernicus	1500.	23 29 24
Tycho Brahe	1587.	23 29 30
Cassini (father)	1656.	23 29 2
Hevelius	1660.	23 29 30
Cassini (son)	1672.	23 28 54

Richer (at Cayenne) .. 1672 A.C.	23° 28' 52"
Flamsteed	1690..... 23 28 56
La Hire	23 29 0
Roëmer.....	1706..... 23 28 47
Louville	1716. 23 28 31
Condamine	1736..... 23 28 24
La Caille	1750..... 23 28 19
Mayer	1750..... 23 28 18
Bradley.....	1750..... 23 28 18
Maskelyne, Brinkley, } Delambre, & Bessel }	1800..... 23 27 55.94
Cacciadore, Piazz, } Oriani, Arago, Pond, } & Bessel.....	1809..... 23 27 51.33
Woodhouse	1812..... 23 27 50.17
Brinkley, Arago, Ori- } ani, and Pond }	1813..... 23 27 50.50
Pond from a mean of } 15 years..... }	1820..... 23 27 46.53
Rumker, Paramatta, } New South Wales, } 1st January	1827..... 23 27 43.98

From this table it is computed that there is a diminution in the obliquity of the ecliptic of $31''.135$ in 70 years.

This angle is a quantity which varies between certain limits not exceeding 3° , and, as the times of maximum and minimum, when the variation is nothing, are unknown, it is evident that the variation itself must be a variable quantity, and, consequently, it is not the same now in all probability that it was some thousands of years ago, or what it will be some thousands of years hence.

Respecting the difference between the obliquity observed at the summer and winter solstices, there cannot be any doubt but that it is connected with erroneous tables of Refractions and Latitudes.

LUNAR PHENOMENA.

Phases of the Moon.

Last Quarter	3rd day at 20 min. after 3 afternoon.
New Moon	10th 51 6 morning.
First Quarter	17th 59 3
Full Moon	25th 0 7

Conjunctions of the Moon with the Planets and Stars.

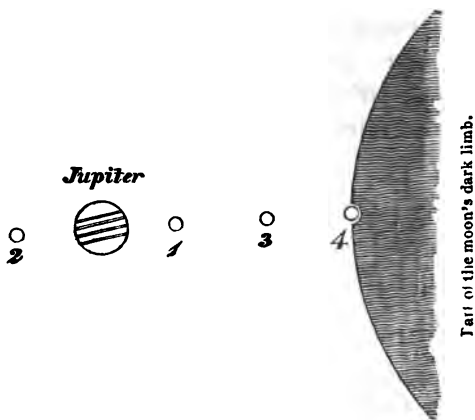
June 2nd, with Jupiter	..... at 2 morning.
9th, Mercury	..... 2
9th, γ in Taurus	..... 7
9th, Aldebaran	..... 1 afternoon.
12th, Mars	..... 6 evening.
13th, Venus	..... 6 morning.
15th, .. . Saturn	..... 1
21st, γ in Libra	..... 10 night.
28th, .. . Uranus	..... 4 afternoon.
29th, Jupiter	..... 8 morning.

OCCULTATION OF JUPITER BY THE MOON.

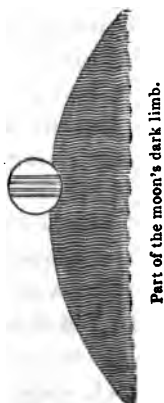
The most remarkable lunar phenomenon of the month will be the occultation of Jupiter and his satellites by the moon early in the morning of the 2nd. The last occultation of this planet, visible at Greenwich, occurred on April 5th, 1824, and was attended with very singular appearances. Mr. Ramage, of Aberdeen, who witnessed this occultation, states, that "on the approach of Jupiter's satellites to the lunar disc, no diminution of their light was perceptible. On coming into contact with the moon's limb, they did not disappear instantly, like fixed stars, but formed an indentation or notch in the limb, as if embedded in it, but at the same time *separated from it by a fine line of light*. This indentation continued visible till about half their diameters were immersed, when it disappeared.

All the satellites presented this phenomenon, but the third and fourth with the greatest distinctness.

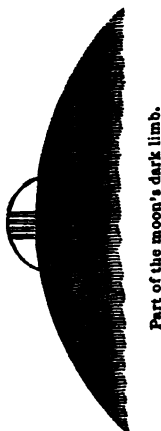
The following will afford some idea of the appearance referred to.



On Jupiter's approach no difference in his light or shape was perceptible: after the contact had taken place he appeared, to exhibit no deficiency of disc, but on the contrary presented a complete figure as if placed between the moon and the earth,—thus



This appearance continued for a few seconds: when nearly altogether immersed, his retiring limb was seen considerably elongated, as if forming a segment of a much larger sphere,—thus



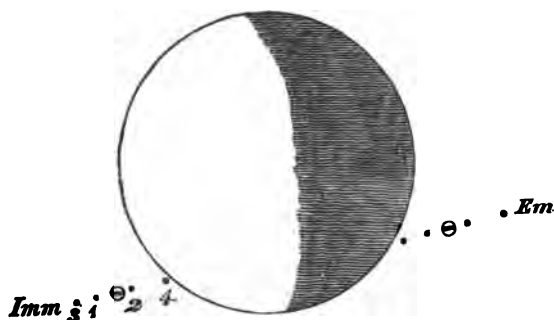
Part of the moon's dark limb.

An occultation of Jupiter was observed by Schroeter, 7th of April, 1792, who remarked, that some of the satellites became indistinct at the limb of the moon, while others did not suffer any change of colour. The belts and spots of Jupiter appeared perfectly distinct when close to the limb of the moon, and a small luminous spot, though by no means very perceptible, could be plainly distinguished when close to the moon's limb.

On May 26th, 1828, an occultation of this planet was observed at Port Famine, Straits of Magellan, by Captain King, of the Royal Navy; he noticed the following curious circumstance, "that when Jupiter appeared to be most eclipsed, a very minute portion was visible between two elevations at the moon's disc."

In the occultation of Jupiter this month, the morning of the 2nd of June, the following will be the order of the eclipses:—the bright limb of the moon will come in contact,—first with the 4th satellite, then the 2nd; the

immersion of Jupiter will then occur at 12 min. after 1; the moon will afterwards proceed to the 1st satellite, and finally the 3rd will be obscured. At emersion the 4th will first be visible, then the 2nd. Jupiter will re-appear at 19 min. past 2, afterwards the 1st, and finally the 3rd, satellite will emerge from behind the moon's dark limb. The following diagram will illustrate this interesting occultation.



PHENOMENA PLANETARUM.

Mercury, stationary on the 8th. At his greatest elongation as a morning star on the 20th; angular distance from the sun $22^{\circ} 37'$; the position of the planet will be very near to 1 and 2 δ in Taurus.

Venus in conjunction with κ in Gemini at 6 in the morning of the 4th; with γ in Cancer at 10 in the morning of the 16th, and with 388 Mayer on the 19th, difference of latitude $2'$.

Phases of Venus.

The proportions of the light and dark phases of Venus are as follow :

June 1st.—Illuminated disc = 8.9393

Dark part..... = 3.0607

S 2

Mars in conjunction with 2μ in Cancer on the 15th, difference of latitude $3'$. On the 28th this planet will be in conjunction with the following stars in Cancer,—
 359, difference of latitude $1'$; 360, difference of latitude $6'$; 361, difference of latitude $5'$; 362, difference of latitude $2'$.

The Asteroids.

The situations of these small planets on the 1st of the month, will be as follow :—

Vesta forming the summit of a small isosceles triangle with 172 and 173 in Taurus. Right ascension 4 hrs. 38 min. North declination $19^{\circ} 20'$.

Juno, a degree and a quarter south-west of $\alpha 1$ in Orion. Right ascension 4 hrs. 37 min. North declination $13^{\circ} 31'$.

These two asteroids, Juno and Vesta, are nearly in conjunction with each other and the sun.

Pallas, two degrees south of 18 in Sagitta; a nebula to the north-east, and a triple star to the north-west. Right ascension 20 hrs. 7 min. North declination $18^{\circ} 35'$.

Ceres, a degree north of 41 in Globus Ethereus. Right ascension 21 hrs. 34 min. South declination $23^{\circ} 5'$. The asteroids still continue in unfavourable situations for observation.

Jupiter will be stationary on the 11th near μ in Capricornus.

Eclipses of the Satellites of Jupiter.

IMMERSIONS.

First satellite, 3rd day at 8 m. 45 s. after 2 in the morning.

18th 24 m. 29 s. midnight,

26th 18 m. 47 s. 2 in the morning.

Second satellite, 7th 23 m. 10 s. 2

REMARKABLE CONFIGURATIONS OF THE SATELLITES,
At 2 in the morning.

On the 3rd, the first and third satellites will be in conjunction. 4th, the first on the disc, and the third and fourth in conjunction. 12th, the first satellite in the shadow of Jupiter. 20th, all the satellites to the west of Jupiter, and appearing in their respective order,—the first nearest the primary, and the fourth most remote. 29th, the fourth and third, and on the 30th the second and fourth in conjunction.

Saturn in conjunction with *Regulus* at 4 in the afternoon of the 17th, and with 34 in *Leo* on the 25th, difference of latitude 30'.

FORM OF SATURN'S RING.

June 9th, Semi-transverse axis ——— 39".97

Semi-conjugate axis..... ——— 7 .66

Uranus, on the 1st, is close to ι in *Capricornus*.

Sphere of the Fixed Stars.

Positions of the principal constellations on the 30th of the month, at 8 in the evening, as seen from

VAN DIEMAN'S LAND.

The Zodiac. *Capricornus* rising E.S.E. *Sagittarius*, east. *Scorpio*, N.E. *Libra* and *Virgo*, separated by the meridian. *Leo*, setting W.N.W.

North of the Zodiac. *Aquila* rising E.N.E. *Serpentarius*, N.N.E. *Corona Borealis*, N. by E. The head of *Bootes* touches the horizon in the north. *Canes Venatici*, N.N.W.

Lupus in the Zenith. *Norma*, *Ara*, *Telescopium*, *Microscopium*, *Pisces Australis*, S. E.—the latter is rising. *Centaurus* and *Hydra*, west of the Zenith.

Crux, Robur Caroli, Argo Navis, S.W. by W. Musca, Chamelion, Pisces Volans, Dorado, S. S. W. Hydrus, Horologium, and Eridanus, below the pole.

Telescopic Objects, &c.

ζ in Lupus is a double star, the large star a greenish yellow colour, the small one, pale. ξ in the same constellation is a beautiful double star, both of the sixth magnitude, one star yellow, the others greenish. β in Pisces Australis is also double. ε in Pisces Volans is double, the large star, white, and the small one, blue. κ in Robur Caroli is triple. η in the same constellation is double, the largest star of the third, and the smallest of the tenth, magnitude. 6 in Eridanus is a beautiful double star.

Oh! thou beautiful
And unimaginable ether! and
Ye multiplying masses of increased
And still increasing lights! what are ye? what
Is this blue wilderness of interminable
Air, where ye roll along as I have seen
The leaves along the limpid streams of Eden?
Is your course measured for ye? Or do ye
Sweep on in your unbounded revelry
Through an aerial universe of endless
Expansion, at which my soul aches to think,
Intoxicated with eternity?

Byron.

A TABLE

Of the Sun's rising and setting, Equation of Time, Transits and Meridional Altitudes of the Planets.

JUNE.	SUN		Equation of Time subt. from appt. time	MERCURY.		VENUS.		MARS.		JUPITER.		SATURN.		URANUS.	
	rises.	sets.		Trans.	Alt.	Trans.	Alt.	Trans.	Alt.	Trans.	Alt.	Trans.	Alt.	Trans.	Alt.
Day,	h. m.	h. m.	m. s.	h. m.	o ' /	h. m.	o ' /	h. m.	o ' /	h. m.	o ' /	h. m.	o ' /	h. m.	o ' /
1st, Wednesday	3 54	8 6	2 38	11 21m	55 47	2 46a	62 50	2 46a	62 4	5 2m	23 41	5 20a	52 52	4 31m	21 22
7th, Tuesday ..	3 49	8 12	1 39	10 52	54 44	2 52	61 45	2 36	61 30	4 38	23 42	4 57	52 44	4 7	21 20
13th, Monday ..	3 45	8 15	0 29	10 34	54 56	2 56	60 18	2 27	60 50	4 13	23 41	4 34	52 35	3 43	21 18
19th, Sunday ..	3 43	8 17	0 46	10 26	56 11	2 59	58 32	2 18	60 5	3 48	23 38	4 11	52 25	3 19	21 16
25th, Saturday..	3 43	8 17	2 4	10 29	58 5	3 1	56 29	2 9	59 15	3 22	23 32	3 48	52 13	2 55	21 14

J U L Y.

SOLAR PHENOMENA.

In robes of light arrayed, the glorious orb
From his celestial chamber issues forth,
Gilding the clouds, and round his orient path
Effulgent glories spreading. Hill and dale,
And tower and tree, his golden smiles reflect ;
Along the flowery meads, in sinuous course,
The dimpled waters sparkle in his beams,
And every bush with dewy gems is hung.

On the 1st of this month the sun is in apogee, or more strictly, the earth is in aphelion, being that part of its orbit where it attains its greatest distance from the sun. At this period the earth's motion is slowest, and the sun's apparent diameter at its minimum.

In astronomical theory it is usual and convenient to speak of the sun as the moving body, from which no possible mistake can arise, for in whatever direction the sun is apparently moving, and with whatever apparent velocity,—the earth is actually moving in the opposite direction, and with a corresponding velocity;—in other words,—the earth moves round the sun, but an observer sees the sun to move, and to describe a curve similar to that which would be seen, that the earth would pursue, by an observer transferred to the sun.

The following table will shew the daily motion, and the corresponding angle of the sun's diameter for the 1st of each month of the present year:—

	Daily motion.		Sun's appt. diam.	
January 1st, The sun in perigee	1°	1' 10"	32'	35".6
February 1st,	1	0 51	32	30.6
March 1st,	1	0 8	32	19.4
April 1st, The sun at its mean distance	}	0 59	6	32 2.8
May 1st,		0 58	9	31 47.0
June 1st,	0	57 28	31	35.2
July 1st, The sun in apogee ..	0	57 11	31	31.0
August 1st,	0	57 25	31	34.8
September 1st,	0	58 6	31	46.2
October 1st, The sun at its mean distance	}	0 59	4	32 1.8
November 1st,		1 0 6	32	18.6
December 1st,	1	0 54	32	30.8

From hence, it is not difficult to perceive, that the earth varies its distance from the sun, and that its velocity is alternately retarded and accelerated; by investigating the proportional distances, velocities, and corresponding times of description, it is evident that the orbit of the earth is an ellipse, and that the sun is in one of the foci; also, that lines supposed to be drawn from the sun to the earth, move over equal areas, in equal portions of time, so that about the winter solstice, when these radii are shortest, their deficiency is compensated by the greater length of the area through which the earth moves, and on the contrary about the summer solstice, when the curve, described in any equal time, is not so long, the area remains the same, being made up by the greater length of the radii.

The sun enters Leo at 28 min. after 4 in the afternoon of the 23rd of this month.

LUNAR PHENOMENA.

Phases of the Moon.

Last Quarter	2nd day	at 40 m.	after 11 night.
New Moon	9th	.... 47	..... 1 afternoon.
First Quarter	16th	.... 3	..... 6 evening.
Full Moon	24th	.... 5	..... 9 night.

Conjunctions of the Moon with the Planets and Stars.

July	8th,	with Mercury ..	at 4 afternoon.
	11th,	.... Mars	..... 10 morning.
	12th,	.... Saturn	..... 2 afternoon.
	12th,	.... ρ in Leo	.... 9 night.
	12th,	.... Venus	..... 10
	26th,	.... Jupiter	..... 9 morning.

PHENOMENA PLANETARUM.

Mercury in his ascending node on the 8th. In perihelion on the 13th. In his superior conjunction with the sun at midnight of the 19th.

Venus in conjunction with Regulus on the 6th at 2 in the morning, and with Saturn on the 8th at 1 in the morning, the difference of the latitude of the two planets 12'. In her descending node at 5 in the morning of the 25th. In conjunction with τ in Leo at 2 in the morning of the 27th. At her greatest elongation at 2 in the afternoon of the 30th, her angular distance from the sun being $45^{\circ} 43'$.

Phases of Venus.

The following are the proportions of the light and dark phases of Venus:—

July 1st.—Illuminated disc = 7.5394

Dark part..... = 4.4606

Mars in aphelion at 10 in the morning of the 23rd, near ψ in Leo.

The Asteroids.

Vesta on the 3rd will be in the *Via Lactea*, close to 118 in Orion. Right ascension 5 hrs. 36 min. North declination $21^{\circ} 7'$.

Juno on the 3rd, a degree south-west of ν in Orion. Right ascension 5 hrs. 53 min. North declination $14^{\circ} 38'$.

Pallas on the 3rd, half a degree north of γ in Sagitta; it will pass close to ζ on the 15th, and be in conjunction with δ in the same small constellation on the 17th.

On the 22nd this small planet will be in opposition, between α and δ in Sagitta, in a branch of the *Via Lactea*. Right ascension 19 hrs. 35 min. 6.1 sec., and north declination $18^{\circ} 43' 12''.5$.

The eccentricity of the orbit of *Pallas* is one fourth of its mean distance from the sun: the angle which its path makes with the ecliptic is greater than any other planetary body in the system ($34^{\circ} 34' 55''$) which is nearly five times that of the inclination of the path of Mercury ($7^{\circ} 0' 14''.37$).

The elements of the orbit of *Pallas*, and other particulars, are as follow:—

Sidereal revolution, 4 years, 226 days, 12 hrs. 55 min. 52.32 sec.

Mean synodical revolution, 466 days.

Longitude of the ascending node, 5 signs, $22^{\circ} 39' 26''.8$.

Place of Perihelion, 4 signs, $1^{\circ} 7' 4''.3$.

Greatest equation of the centre, $27^{\circ} 49' 19''$.

Eccentricity of the orbit, 63,608,130 miles.

Mean distance from the sun, 263,226,385 miles.

Mean apparent diameter, $0''.5$ or 80 miles.

Proportional quantity of light and heat, the earth being unity .13005.

Ceres, on the 3rd, will be in *Globus Ethereus*, not

near any particular star to indicate its situation. Right ascension 21 hrs. 34 min. South declination $25^{\circ} 42'$.

Jupiter, on the 27th, will be in conjunction with ϵ in Capricornus, difference of latitude $18'$.

Eclipses of the Satellites of Jupiter.

IMMERSIONS.

First satellite,	11th day at 35 m. 42 s. after midnight.
19th	30 m. 5 s. 2 morning.
27th	53 m. 12 s. 10 night.
Second satellite, 1st	25 m. 52 s. 11
9th	0 m. 44 s. 2 morning.
Third satellite, 12th	29 m. 48 s. 1
Fourth satellite, 25th	33 m. 19 s. 1

REMARKABLE CONFIGURATIONS OF THE SATELLITES,

At 1 in the morning.

On the 5th only two of the satellites (the second and fourth) will be visible, the first and third being in the shadow of the primary. 14th, all the satellites to the east of Jupiter, and on the 19th, all to the west. 30th, the fourth satellite will be at its greatest distance, east of Jupiter.

FORM OF SATURN'S RING.

July 19th, Semi-transverse axis	———	37.96
Semi-conjugate axis	———	6.14

Uranus on the 1st will be a degree and half south of 29 in Capricornus.

Sphere of the Fixed Stars.

Positions of the principal constellations on the 31st of the month, at 8 in the evening, as seen from

VAN DIEMAN'S LAND.

The Zodiac. Aquarius, clear of the horizon in the east. Capricornus, E.N.E. Sagittarius, N.E. Scorpio,

on the meridian. **Libra**, N.W. **Virgo**, W.N.W. **Leo** sinking below the horizon, W. by N.

North of the Zodiac. **Pegasus** rising E. by N. **Antinous**, **Aquila** and **Delphinus**, N.E. by E. **Lyra** rising N.N.E. On the meridian **Hercules**. **Serpens** and **Corona Borealis**, N. by W. **Bootes**, N.W. by N.

Ara, near the Zenith. **Telescopium**, **Indus**, **Grus**, and **Apparatus Sculptoris**, S.E. by E. **Corona Australis**, **Microscopium**, and **Pisces Australis**, E.S.E. **Pavo**, **Toucan**, and **Phoenix**, S.E. by S. **Lupus**, **Centaurus**, **Hydra**, **Corvus**, **Crater** and **Sextans**, in the west,—the latter setting. **Circinus**, **Crux**, **Robur Caroli**, S.W. **Pisces Volans**, and **Argo Navis**, S.S.W. **Mons Mensa**, **Dorado**, **Equuleus Pictorius** below the pole. Direction of the **Via Lactea**, from the N.E. through the Zenith to the S.W.

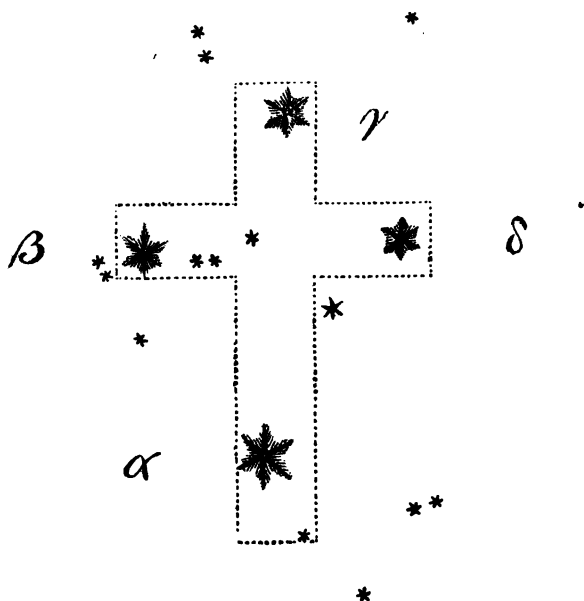
Telescopic Objects.

It may reasonably be conceived that the southern celestial hemisphere is as replete with interesting telescopic objects as the northern: at present the survey of the starry frame that revolves round the antarctic pole, has but recently commenced, though making rapid progress under the direction of active astronomers at **Paramatta**, **New South Wales**. The field of investigation is vast,—a celestial surface, equal to a fourth of the whole area of the heavens; this field is not, however, entirely new; **La Caille** succeeded in observing and registering the places of 10,000 stars, but the refinement of modern astronomy requires greater accuracy than his catalogue possesses from the inferiority of his means of observing; the **Observatory at Paramatta** is furnished with the most exquisite instruments, which are in the

hands of men of science, zeal, and activity. The solstices have here been observed; also eclipses, occultations, and observations of the planets, Venus and Uranus, near their conjunctions and oppositions; the comet of Encke, when invisible to Europe, was detected at this Observatory, and afforded a proof of the accuracy of the astronomer, whose name it bears, and who had predicted the time of its return. Nebulæ have also been observed, and the approximate places of 253 double stars recorded; it is not therefore too much to anticipate, that at no very distant period, there will be reaped from this remote region of the earth, a rich harvest of discoveries in the starry heavens.

It is principally from the Paramatta Observations that the "Telescopic Objects" in the southern hemisphere are selected,—among which are also the following:—

48 in Ara, and σ in Telescopium, are double. α in Indus is double, the large star yellow, the small one blue. ψ in Grus is double, the large star dusky red, the small, blue. In Apparatus Sculptoris is a very singular star of the 7th magnitude, of an uncommon red purple colour, very dusky and ill defined. The most interesting constellation in the southern hemisphere is Crux, generally known by seamen by the name of the Southern Cross; the stars at the foot and summit are the pointers to the south pole. α in Crux is a triple star, the largest yellowish white, the smaller rather pale. γ is a double star, the large star dusky red, the small one pale. The following diagram will give an idea of the appearance of the Southern Cross when on the meridian above the pole:—



The constellations in the southern hemisphere afford to our antipodes a splendid prospect, different from those in the northern, and excelling them in brilliancy and richness; among others, the one last specified, (and with which the observations on this hemisphere are concluded,) is remarkable for its vivid beauty; it has been referred to with uncommon feeling by Humboldt, the celebrated traveller, and made the subject of verse by one of the sweetest poetesses of the present day, (Mrs. Hemans). The former in his travels in South America, thus speaks of it. "We saw distinctly, for the first time," he observes, "the *Cross of the South*, only in the night of the 4th and 5th of July, in the

sixteenth degree of latitude: it was strongly inclined, and appeared from time to time between the clouds; the centre of which furrowed by uncondensed lightnings, reflected a silver light. The pleasure felt on discovering the Southern Cross was warmly shared by such of the crew as had lived in the colonies. In the solitude of the seas we hail a star as a friend, from whom we have been long separated. Among the Portuguese and the Spaniards peculiar motives seem to increase this feeling; a religious sentiment attaches them to a constellation, the form of which recalls the sign of the faith planted by their ancestors in the deserts of the New World. The two great stars which mark the summit and the foot of the cross have nearly the same right ascension, it follows that the constellation is almost perpendicular at the moment when it passes the meridian. This circumstance is known to every nation that lives beyond the tropics, or in the southern hemisphere. It is known at what hour of the night, in different seasons, the Southern Cross is erect, or inclined. It is a time-piece, that advances very regularly nearly four minutes a day; and no other group of stars exhibits to the naked eye, an observation of time so easily made. How often have we heard our guides exclaim in the savannas of Venezuela, or in the deserts extending from Lima to Truxillo, 'Midnight is past, the Cross begins to bend!' How often these words reminded us of that affecting scene, where Paul and Virginia, seated near the source of the river of Lataniars, conversed together for the last time; and when the old man, at the sight of the Southern Cross, warns them, that it is time to separate."

THE SOUTHERN CROSS.

In the silence and grandeur of midnight I tread,
Where savannahs in boundless magnificence spread;
And bearing sublimely their snow-wreaths on high
The far Cordilleras unite with the sky.

The fern-tree wanes o'er me, the fire-fly's red light
With its quick glancing splendour illumines the night;
And I read, in each tint of the skies and the earth,
How distant my steps from the land of my birth.

But to thee, as thy lode-stars resplendently burn
In their clear depths of blue, with devotion I turn,
Bright Cross of the South! and beholding thee shine,
Scarce regret the loved land of the olive and vine.

Thou recallest the ages when first o'er the main
My father unfolded the streamer of Spain,
And planted their faith in the regions that see
Its unperishing symbol emblazoned in thee.

How oft, in their course o'er the oceans unknown
Where all was mysterious and awfully lone,
Hath their spirit been cheered by thy light, when the deep
Reflected its brilliance, in tremulous sleep!

As the vision that rose to the lord of the world,
When first his bright banner of faith was unfurled;
E'en such, to the heroes of Spain, when their prow
Made the billows the path of their glory, wert thou!

And to me, as I traverse the world of the west,
Thro' deserts of beauty, in stillness that rest;
By forests and rivers untamed in their pride,
Thy beams have a language, thy course is a guide.

T

Shine on ! my own land is a far distant spot,
And the stars of thy sphere can enlighten it not ;
And the eyes which I love, tho' e'en now they may be
O'er the firmament wandering, can gaze not on thee !

But thou to my thoughts art a pure blazing shrine,
A fount of bright hopes and of visions divine ;
And my soul like an eagle exulting and free
Soars high o'er the Andes, to mingle with thee !

Mrs. Hemans.

The following interesting correspondence is in the same spirit with the preceding beautiful poem, and occurred between a father in England and his youthful son, an officer in the Royal Navy, then stationed at Rio Janeiro, South America; the former, at the conclusion of one of his letters, introduced the following :

“ Direct your eyes to where the Sun,
Shines with meridian force, at *One* ;
Just at that spot, some thousand miles,
I trust my Henry lives and smiles.”

To this affectionate parental reminiscence, the following acknowledgment was returned :—

“ If yon glorious luminary,
Reminds you of your absent Harry ;
Rely upon it, when I see
The glorious sun, I'll think of *Thee*.”

A TABLE

Of the Sun's rising and setting, Equation of Time, Transits and Meridional Altitudes of the Planets.

JULY.	SUN		Equation of Time add to appt. time	MERCURY.		VENUS.		MARS.		JUPITER.		SATURN.		URANUS.	
	rises.	sets.		Trans.	Alt.	Trans.	Alt.	Trans.	Alt.	Trans.	Alt.	Trans.	Alt.	Trans.	Alt.
Day.	h. m.	h. m.	m. s.	h. m.	o ' /	h. m.	o ' /	h. m.	o ' /	h. m.	o ' /	h. m.	o ' /	h. m.	o ' /
1st, Friday....	3 45	8 15	3 17	10 41m	60 9	3 2a	54 11	1 59a	58 19	2 56m	23 24	3 26a	52 1	2 25m	21 10
7th, Thursday.	3 48	8 12	4 23	11 3	61 46	3 2	51 42	1 50	57 19	2 30	23 14	3 3	51 59	2 0	21 7
13th, Wednesday	3 54	8 6	5 16	11 33	62 14	3 1	49 4	1 41	56 14	2 4	23 3	2 41	51 35	1 35	21 4
19th, Tuesday..	4 0	8 0	5 52	0 4a	61 7	3 0	46 19	1 31	55 5	1 37	22 50	2 19	51 21	1 10	21 0
25th, Monday..	4 8	7 52	6 8	0 27	58 34	2 57	43 30	1 22	53 52	1 11	22 36	1 58	51 6	0 45	20 56

AUGUST.

SOLAR PHENOMENA.

Oh ! beauteous is the golden light
Of Morn, when first she springs
Over the mountains rosy height
On gay and gladsome wings.
Beautiful are the clouds that break
Before her beamy tress
Rippling like smiles, that all but speak
Their inward happiness.

ON the 7th of this month the sun will be eclipsed invisible at Greenwich, at 3 min. after 10 in the morning, in longitude $4^{\circ} 34\frac{1}{2}'$, the moon's latitude $39\frac{1}{2}'$ south. The eclipse will be central on the meridian at 10hrs. $24\frac{1}{2}$ min., in longitude $156^{\circ} 2'$ west, and in latitude $26^{\circ} 35\frac{1}{2}'$ south.

This eclipse will be visible to a great portion of New Holland and the South Pacific Ocean. At Paramatta the commencement will be at sun rise, and its greatest obscuration $10\frac{1}{2}$ digits.

The last solar eclipse of any very considerable magnitude visible in this country, was that which occurred September 7, 1820, when $10\frac{1}{2}$ digits were eclipsed. Some curious experiments on the sun's light and heat, during the eclipse, were made by Mr. Wiseman of Norwich, which are thus detailed by Mr. Bailly in the First Volume of "the Memoirs of the Astronomical Society

of London." " Having procured a piece of paste-board, he, (Mr. Wiseman,) affixed thereto, four equal pieces of different colored cloths; viz: black, blue, yellow, and red; and placed them successively in the focus of a burning lens, *on the day preceding the eclipse*. The following are the periods at which they respectively took fire; viz.: black, in 7 sec.; blue, in the same time; red, in 8 sec.; yellow, in 16 sec. He also, on the same day, submitted the bulb of a thermometer, which then stood at 66° , to the focus of the lens; and in $1\frac{1}{4}$ min. it rose to 94° , and probably would have risen higher, had he not been apprehensive that the glass would have been broken by the heat. These experiments were made about 2 o'clock in the afternoon, in order that they might correspond with the time of the eclipse at its greatest obscuration. On the following day, about half-an-hour after the commencement of the eclipse, he applied the cloths in succession to the focus of the lens, and found the periods, at which they respectively took fire as follow; viz.: black, in 20 sec.; blue, in the same time; red, in 16 sec.; yellow, in 40 sec. At about half-an-hour before the end of the eclipse, he again submitted them to the focus of the lens, and found their periods of ignition to be as follow; viz.: black, in 17 sec.; blue, 18 sec.; red, in 14 sec.; yellow, in 24 sec. But during the time of the greatest obscuration, he could not produce any effect on them whatever. The thermometer, at the commencement of the eclipse, was at 66° ; and by 2 o'clock had fallen to $61^{\circ}\frac{3}{4}$. This was about the middle of the eclipse; and Mr. Wiseman assures me, that at this time he held the bulb in the focus of the burning lens for upwards of four minutes, but without producing any sensible effect. At a quarter past two,

he repeated the same experiment, and with the same result, although the sun was free from clouds. At the termination of the eclipse the thermometer rose to 64° .

"Mr. Wiseman also states, that he fitted up a prism in a darkened room, and that he made several observations on the colored rays, which were thrown on a screen of white paper. He says that during the continuance of the eclipse, the yellow and blue rays were generally increased in brilliancy, whilst the red became exceedingly faint, and did not occupy more than half their usual breadth."

The sun enters Virgo, at eleven at night of the 23rd of this month.

LUNAR PHENOMENA.

The silver moon her western couch forsakes,
And o'er the skies her nightly circle makes;
Her solid globe beats back the sunny rays,
And to the word her borrowed light repays.

Phases of the Moon.

Last Quarter	1st day at 41 min. after	5 morning.
New Moon	7th 3	10 night.
First Quarter	15th 24	10 morning.
Full Moon	23rd 5	10
Last Quarter	30th 48	10

Conjunctions of the Moon with the Planets and Stars.

August 2nd, with f in Taurus	.... at	4 morning.
3rd, Aldebaran	.....	7
8th, Regulus	.....	8 evening.
9th, Mars	.....	2 morning.
9th, .. . Saturn	.....	6
9th, Mercury	.....	9
11th, Venus	.....	8
11th, γ in Virgo	.....	8 evening.
22nd, Jupiter	.....	10 morning.
30th, γ in Taurus	.....	6
30th, Aldebaran	.....	1 afternoon.

Eclipse of the Moon.

The moon will be eclipsed invisible to the British Isles on the 23rd of this month; it will occur under the following circumstances; viz.

	hrs.	min.	
Beginning of the Eclipse.....	8	40½	morning.
Middle.....	9	57	
Ecliptic Opposition	10	5½	
End of the Eclipse.....	11	18½	

Digits eclipsed $5^{\circ} 48'$, from the southern side of the earth's shadow, or on the moon's northern limb.

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES ON ECLIPSES.

The darkness that occurred at our Saviour's crucifixion, and which continued three hours, cannot be attributed to an eclipse of the sun, the passover being kept at the time of full moon: had even the two luminaries been in conjunction, the darkness could only have lasted four or five minutes, owing to their apparent diameters being so nearly equal. Dionysius, a judge of Arcopagus, being at Heliopolis, and observing this preternatural phenomenon, cried out, that "Nature was either dissolving, or the God of nature suffering." He afterwards embraced the Christian faith, and suffered martyrdom for the truth of it.

A.D. 14.—A total eclipse of the moon, which terrified the Roman troops, and prevented a revolt.

A.D. 59, April 30th.—An eclipse of the sun. This is reckoned among the prodigies, on account of the murder of Agrippinus by Nero.

A.D. 237, April 12th.—A total eclipse of the sun. This was considered to be a sign that the reign of the Gordiani would not continue long. A sixth persecution of the Christians.

A.D. 306.—An eclipse of the sun. The stars were seen, and the emperor Constantius died.

A.D. 840, May 4th.—A dreadful eclipse of the sun. Lewis the Pious died within six months after it.

A.D. 1009.—An eclipse of the sun. Jerusalem taken by the Saracens.

A.D. 1133, August 2nd.—A terrible eclipse of the sun. The stars were visible. A schism in the church, occasioned by there being three popes at one time.

A.D. 1140, March 20th.—A total eclipse of the sun visible at London. Dr. Halley remarks, that though there are necessarily twenty-eight central eclipses of the sun at some part or other of the globe in eighteen years, and that no fewer than eight of these pass over the parallel of London, three of which are total with continuance,—yet from the great variety of elements whereof the calculus of eclipses consists, it has so happened that since March 20th, 1140, there had not been a total eclipse of the sun visible at London, although the shadow of the moon has often passed over other parts of Great Britain.

A.D. 1191, June 22nd.—A very large solar eclipse in England. The true sun was seen dimly with an apparent one, but very much obscured.

A.D. 1493.—Christopher Columbus was driven on the island of Jamaica, where he was in the greatest distress for want of provisions, and refused any assistance from the inhabitants; on which he threatened them with a plague, and told them that in token of it there should be an eclipse; which accordingly fell on the day he had foretold, and so terrified the Barbarians, that they strove who should be the first in bringing him all sorts of provisions, throwing them at his feet and imploring his forgiveness.

One of the strongest proofs against the veracity of Bruce, the Abyssinian traveller, was connected with a lunar eclipse. In recording his observations of it, he describes the shadow as having advanced some way upon the disc of the moon, at a time when, by calculation, the luminary was several degrees below the horizon, and did not rise till the middle of the eclipse.

The Marchioness of Hastings, when in India, observed that one of her female attendants absented herself during an eclipse of the moon. On inquiry whither she had been, the woman answered, that “she had been paying the cobbler, for that it was quite dark.” Not perceiving what connexion the darkness had with the payment, her ladyship naturally required a

solution of the mystery. "Oh!" said the simple creature, "it is an old story: a long while ago, they borrowed nails, and a piece of leather of a cobbler, to nail over the moon. The cobbler never was repaid; so I have been with the rest to pay our share of money to the priest."

Dean Swift happening to tell his parishioners, that, on a certain day and hour, an eclipse would be visible, found, to his great amazement, that at the appointed time his house was besieged by the country people, who had imagined that the sight to be seen could only be exhibited by the dean, and exclusively visible from his dwelling. To rid himself of his troublesome visitors, he told them to go home, as the eclipse was put off for a day or two.

The celebrated Bode, author of the *Celestial Atlas*, and other excellent works, was conversing with Professor Encke, on the 23rd of November, 1826, relative to the eclipse of the sun, of the 29th of that month, when he was surprised by death.

The eclipses which happened about the time of the creation are little more than half way of their ethereal circuit: it will be 4,000 years before they enter the earth any more.

In 7606 lunations, the sun and moon will be in conjunction at the same node, after two returns, precisely at the same instant of time.

In 102 returns of this period are contained

31363 solar years.

387906 lunations.

33048 revolutions of the sun to the moon's node, and

1685 revolutions of the moon's node to the ecliptic; when the sun, moon, and node, will be in conjunction at the same instant of time according to mean motions, and will not be more than $7\frac{1}{4}$ minutes of a degree distant from the same point of the ecliptic in which they were situated at the beginning of the above period.

A catalogue of eclipses was calculated to gratify the curiosity of the French king, who was anxious to know if a total or annular eclipse would soon happen, visible at Paris. From

this calculation it appeared, that only one annular eclipse would occur in the nineteenth century, and that it would take place on the 9th of October, 1847. The distance of the centres of the two luminaries will be only $10''$; the distance of the south limbs, $1' 24''$; distance of the north limbs, $1' 4''$.

Clavius observes, that at the total eclipse of 1560, the darkness at Coimbra was greater, or at least more striking, than that of night; and the birds fell to the earth through terror.

At the solar eclipse of 1699, there was only $\frac{1}{110}$ th of the sun visible at Gripswald in Pomerania; and the obscurity was so great, that the inhabitants could neither see to read nor write. Two of the planets, and two or three of the fixed stars, also made their appearance.

In 1706, at Paris, the sun was eclipsed nearly eleven digits; yet, although only one-twelfth of the diameter was visible, every thing could be distinguished as clearly as in the fullest sunshine.

The sky an azure field displayed—
 'Twas sun-light sheathed, and gently charm'd,
 Of all its sparkling rays disarm'd,
 And as in slumber laid;
 Or something night and day between,
 Like moon-shine—but the hue was green.

The grand eclipse of the 22nd of April, 1715, presented most interesting phenomena; it was observed and minutely detailed by Dr. Halley: his description of it is said to be the best that astronomical history affords of this species of phenomenon. During the greatest obscuration, the planets Jupiter, Mercury, and Venus, and not fewer than twenty of the fixed stars, were visible; so that the sky appeared as starry as during the night of a full moon.

An observer at Zurich says, "that the birds went to roost, the bats came out of their holes, and the fishes swam about; a sensation of cold was experienced, and the dew fell on the grass."

Eclipses of the moon have of late years been particularly baffling, at least this has been the case in the neighbourhood of London; the lunar eclipse of the 14th November, 1826, was

hidden by dark heavy clouds, which did not allow a momentary glance; the one that occurred November 3d, 1827, was concealed by an impenetrable mist, excepting for a very short time before its termination; the eclipse on the morning of the 13th September, 1829, was also unseen, though the bright luminary had travelled through an unclouded sky, from its rising to its passage of the meridian, and thence down the steep of heaven, till the moment of its entering the earth's shadow, when, at the very commencement, the moon was received into a dense bank of clouds which hung over the western horizon. The evening preceding the great lunar eclipse of last year, 2d September, 1830, (see T. T. Astron. Occ. for September, 1830,) the heavens were remarkably clear; the moon appeared as if shining from the pure skies of Italy, and afforded the fairest prospect of the succeeding night being as propitious as the most sanguine astronomer could desire. At the anticipated time (at Deptford) the moon was, from the commencement of the eclipse till its conclusion, either entirely invisible, or seen only at intervals: "like angel visits few and far between," even these glimpses were very imperfect, as not for a moment did the moon appear on the dark blue sky. This unfavourable state of the atmosphere prevailed generally over the British Isles, and probably very few had an opportunity of watching the progress of the eclipse from its commencement to its termination. It was seen from the Bay of Biscay, from the moment the moon was first obscured, till its final escape from the earth's shadow; when wholly immersed, it is described as appearing of a coppery hue, and most distinctly visible.

The next total eclipse of the moon visible in Britain will occur December 26th, 1833.

A very small solar eclipse will occur July 27th, 1832. 12' 30" only of the sun's southern limb will be concealed.

A great solar eclipse, visible in England, will take place 15th May, 1836, when 11° 18' will be covered.

Another considerable eclipse of the sun will occur 15th March, 1858, when 11° 30' will be hidden.

A still more remarkable eclipse of the sun will take place 19th August, 1887, when the whole of the disc will be covered excepting 2'.

A total eclipse, without continuance, will occur 3d February, 1916. The apparent diameters will coincide, and, for an instant, there will be a total concealment of the sun's light. This eclipse will be the greatest that will be visible in England, till after the year of our Lord 2000.

The last solar eclipse which will be visible in this country before the commencement of the year 2000 will occur August 11, 1999; this will also be a great eclipse.— $11^{\circ} 24'$ of the sun's disc will be obscured.

PHENOMENA PLANETARUM.

Mercury will be in conjunction with Regulus at 5 in the afternoon of the 4th, with Mars at 4 in the afternoon of the 5th, difference of latitude $9'$; with Saturn at 10 at night of the 7th, difference of latitude $28'$. On the 16th, in his descending node. On the 26th, at 5 in the morning, in aphelion. At his greatest elongation from the Sun, as an evening star, at 4 in the morning of the 31st; his angular distance from the Sun nearly at its maximum.

Venus will be in conjunction with β in Virgo at 1 in the morning, of the 3rd, with 508 Mayer on the 13th, difference of latitude $2'$. On the 20th, this beautiful planet will attain its greatest splendour. In conjunction with ψ in Virgo on the 25th, difference of latitude $25'$. In aphelion at 8 in the morning of the 28th.

Phases of Venus.

The following are the proportions of the light and dark phases of Venus:—

August 1st.—Illuminated disc = 5.7295

Dark part. = 6.2705

Mars will be in conjunction with Regulus at 6 in the morning of the 3rd, difference of latitude $39'$; with Saturn, on the 12th, difference of latitude $27'$; with χ in Leo, on the 26th, difference of latitude, $20'$.

The Asteroids.

Vesta will be on the 4th a degree and a half south-west of 36 in Gemini. Right ascension 6 hrs. 34 min., north declination $21^{\circ} 31'$.

Juno will be on the 4th near a cluster of small stars in Gemini. Right ascension 7 hrs. 6 min. North declination $13^{\circ} 33'$.

Pallas will be on the 1st a degree west of α and β in Sagitta, (β is a double star). Right ascension 19 hrs. 27 min. 26.30 sec. North declination $17^{\circ} 29' 59''$.

Ceres will be on the 4th in opposition to the sun in Globus Ethereus. Right ascension 21 hrs. 12 min. 30 sec. 51. South declination $29^{\circ} 15' 9'' 5$. Its great southern declination will prevent a satisfactory observation of this small planet, though in other respects it will be in its most favourable position for Telescopic examination.

The elements, and other phenomena of *Ceres*, are as follow :

Sidereal revolution, 4 years, 221 days, 9 hrs. 26 min. 3.84 sec.

Longitude of ascending node, 2 signs, 20 deg. 41 min. 24 sec.

Secular motion of the node in consequentia, 2 min. 28 sec.

Place of Perihelion, 4 signs, 27 deg. 7 min. 31.5 sec.

Secular motion of the apsides in consequentia, 3 deg. 22 min. 10 sec.

Greatest equation of the centre, 9 deg.

Mean distance from the sun, 262,690,893 miles.

Eccentricity of the orbit, 20,605,211 miles.

Inclination of the orbit, $10^{\circ} 37' 26''.2$.

Proportional quantity of light and heat, the earth being unity .13058.

Jupiter in opposition at 9 in the evening of the 10th, near 890 in Capricornus.

Eclipses of the Satellites of Jupiter.

IMMERSIONS.

First satellite, 3rd day at 47 m. 54 s. after midnight.
 Second satellite, 2nd 2 m. 36 s. 11 night.
 10th 37 m. 27 s. 1 morning.

EMERSIONS.

First satellite, 12th day at 27 m. 42 s. after 11 night.
 20th 22 m. 44 s. 1 morning.
 28th 46 m. 41 s. 9 night.
 Second satellite, 20th 20 m. 20 s. 8
 27th 55 m. 19 s. 10
 Third satellite, 17th 6 m. 24 s. 1 morning.

REMARKABLE CONFIGURATIONS OF THE SATELLITES.

At 10 in the evening.

On the 5th and 12th the first satellite will be in the shadow, and on the 20th and 27th on the disc of the primary. On the 8th and 22nd all the satellites to the west, and on the 18th to the east of Jupiter.

Saturn in conjunction with the sun at 45 min. past 8 of the morning of the 29th.

FORM OF SATURN'S RING.

August 28th, Semi-transverse axis ——— 37".24
 Semi-conjugate axis ——— 4.57

Uranus in opposition at 30 min. after 6 of the afternoon of the 5th.

Sphere of the Fixed Stars.

Positions of the principal constellations on the 1st of the month, at 10 at night.

North-east quarter of the heavens. Cepheus and Cassiopeia N.E. Auriga N.N.E. Perseus N.E. by N. Andromeda and Aries E.N.E. Pisces E.

South-east quarter. Pegasus and Cygnus E. by S.

Aquarius and Equuleus, S. E. Delphinus, S. E. by S. Sagitta, S. S. E. Capricornus, S. S. E. Aquila et Antinous, S. by E. Sagittarius S.

South-west quarter. **Cerberus S. S. W. Scutum Sobieski, S. by W. Lyra, S. S. W. Ophiuchus and Scorpio S. W. by S. Hercules and Libra S. W. by S. Serpens W. S. W. Corona Borealis W. by S. Bootes and Virgo W.**

North-west quarter. **Caput Draconis, and Coma Berenices W. N. W. Ursa Major, and Leo Minor N. W. by N. Ursa N. N. W. Lynx N.**

Telescopic Objects.

In the head of Aquarius is large round nebula, 4' in diameter, which has a nucleus like a comet; it is resolvable into stars. Between the heads of Pegasus and Equuleus is another nebula. α in Capricornus is a double star to the unassisted sight, as a Telescopic object it is triple. A very singular nebula presents itself in the Via Lactea, near the bow of Sagittarius; in the midst of this nebula there is a beautiful double star, from which the nebulous matter, in its immediate vicinity, is separated, as if driven off, leaving the star on a dark ground; the nebula itself is divided into three portions, in a direction from the centre to the circumference, suggesting the idea of three roads, leading to, and terminating at the star. Between the bow of Sagittarius and tail of Scorpio, are two masses of small stars, one, 15' in diameter, the other 30'. Near the right foot of Ophiuchus is an elongated mass of stars 30' in extent, near which, also, is a star in Sagittarius, encircled with a faint light. β in Scorpio is a beautiful double star, the large star,

whitish red, the small one, red. Near δ in Scorpio is a nebula 2' in diameter, which is round, and bright in the centre like a comet.

Who that hath seen these splendours roll,
And gazed on this majestic scene,
But sighed to 'scape this world's controul
Spurning its pleasures poor and mean,
To burst the bonds that bind the soul,
And pass the gulf that yawned between?

From Saturn's ring,
In which of earths an army might be lost,
With the bold comet, take my bolder flight,
Amid those sovereign glories of the skies,
Of independent, native lustre, proud;
The soul of systems! and the lords of life,
Through their wide empires!—what behold I now?
A wilderness of wonders burning round;
Where larger suns inhabit higher spheres;
Nor halt I here; my toil is but begun;
'Tis but the threshold of the Deity;—

—On Nature's Alps I stand,
And see a thousand firmaments beneath!
A thousand systems, as a thousand grains!

O what a root! O what a branch is here!
O what a father! what a family!
Worlds, Systems, and Creations!—and Creations,
In one agglomerated cluster, hung,
Great VINE! on Thee!

Night Thoughts.

A TABLE

Of the Sun's rising and setting, Equation of Time, Transits and Meridional Altitudes of The Planets.

AUGUST.	SUN		Equation of Time add to appt. time	MERCURY.		VENUS.		MARS.		JUPITER.		SATURN.		URANUS.	
	ris.	sets.		Trans.	Alt.	Trans.	Alt.	Trans.	Alt.	Trans.	Alt.	Trans.	Alt.	Trans.	Alt.
	h. m.	h. m.		h. m.	° '	h. m.	° '	h. m.	° '	h. m.	° '	h. m.	° '	h. m.	° '
Day.	h. m.	h. m.	m. s.	h. m.	° '	h. m.	° '	h. m.	° '	h. m.	° '	h. m.	° '	h. m.	° '
1st, Monday...	4 18	7 42	6 1	0 54a	54 23	2 54a	40 11	1 12a	52 23	0 40m	22 19	1 34a	50 49	0 16m	20 51
7th, Sunday ..	4 28	7 32	5 32	1 11	50 18	2 50	37 23	1 3	51 2	0 14	22 4	1 13	50 33	11 52a	20 47
13th, Saturday..	4 38	7 22	4 41	1 23	46 5	2 45	34 38	0 55	49 39	11 48a	21 49	0 53	50 17	11 28	20 43
19th, Friday ...	4 49	7 11	3 31	1 32	41 56	2 38	32 0	0 47	48 13	11 22	21 34	0 34	50 1	11 4	20 39
25th, Thursday .	5 07	0 2	2 2	1 36	38 3	2 30	29 32	0 39	46 45	10 57	21 20	0 15	49 45	10 40	20 35

SEPTEMBER.

SOLAR PHENOMENA.

And canst thou think, vain worm ! those orbs of light,
In size immense, in number infinite,
Were made for thee alone, to twinkle in thy sight ?

IN contemplating the glorious orb of day, a high degree of pleasure is communicated in considering it the abode of rational and intelligent beings, capable of enjoying the purest felicity ; though this idea is directly opposed to the opinions of some philosophers, who regard the proofs of its habitable state as mere illusions of the mind, and that the sun is not fitted for the reception of living beings. " Nature," they say, " has drawn an impenetrable curtain between the inhabitants of the sun, and the worlds which circulate around them ;" alluding to the atmosphere which is supposed to be not less than 1,843 miles, nor more than 2,765 miles in depth ; " she has doomed them to the most solitary dwelling in the whole circle of creation, and has marked them as either unfit, or unworthy to enjoy the noblest privileges of intelligent beings. The planets and the stars are equally invisible from the surface of this luminary, unless when a transient glimpse of the heavens is obtained through an accidental opening in the solar atmosphere. From the year 1676, to the year 1684 there was not a single spot in the

sun's atmosphere ; so that during eight successive years, the inhabitants of that globe, if they do exist, never once obtained a glance of that starry firmament, from the contemplation of which, a Supreme Being could scarcely have excluded any of his rational creation. To maintain, therefore, that the sun is peopled by intelligent beings, is to reason in defiance of the strongest analogies, and support opinions which posterity will rank among the aberrations of the human mind."

But the following considerations are certainly as philosophical, and seem to be in unison with the economy of the universe ; for, as the sun, is not only the largest, and most glorious body in the system, it may be conceived to be tenanted with beings of a higher order, than that of our earth, and endowed with physical powers of motion of a superior nature to those of man. "Let us look around on the sublime world in which we dwell—what a speck is earth in the illimitable fields of creation ! yet what a universe of beauty, and of being it contains ! Look around, O inhabitant of the earth ! and ponder the marvellous and magnificent works of Nature—look on the sun-lit landscape ! fields filled with little hills, and hills covered with waving fields—cataracts thundering from the rifted rocks of the mountains. Impenetrable forests full of life—full of song—full of beauty, shaking the melody of earth from every bending bough. Oceans rolling from shore to shore, rich with gems, and life, and loveliness—bright blossoms breathing their delicious perfumes, even to the wild winds of the wilderness—the blue heavens above—the green plains below, adorned with quadrupeds, and insects, and flowers of every variety, every form, every color which the most fertile imagination

can conceive—then O ! look above on the golden fretted skies blushing to the rising day, or coloring throughout all the azure crystalline with the last glorious rays of even ! what a sublime world we dwell in. Yet this planet is among the smallest in the solar system ! The sun is more than a million times bigger than the earth ; and canst thou suppose for one moment that that mighty orb is a desert of devouring fire ?—that the great globes encircling him are masses of matter unable to sustain life or vegetation ? while the world in which we dwell, and which is scarcely observable among the wheeling globes around it, is the only planet in the solar system which is inhabited, when by as little exertion of creating power it might be made the brightest abode of intelligent beings ? Since every part of the terrestrial atmosphere swarms with innumerable living creatures, since millions of animalcules may be suspended on the point of a needle—since a single leaf of the forest, a bud of the smallest flower of the valley affords food for myriads of living creatures—since the cavities in the most minute grain of common sand are filled with insects and vegetables of various kinds.—Is it to be supposed, for one moment, that a globe, which is ten thousand times greater than all the matter of the planets and moons of our solar system put together ? is it to be fancied for a single moment, that, that mighty orb, “ the centre and soul of our universe,” is a mass of desert matter without life, without beauty, without vegetation ?—that a single globe of the solar system—nay of the wide universe, was made in vain—uninhabited—unfit to be the abode of intelligent creatures ?”—*Essay on the Creation of the Universe, by C. D. Sillery, Author of “ Vallery,” “ Eldred of Erin,” &c.*

SONG OF THE SOLAR INHABITANTS.

Praises to him,—all bountiful—all good,—
Creator of all beauty,—all delight ;
The infinite—the everlasting GOD,—
The One Pure Spirit.

He out of light, impalpable, inert,
Created us ; and made us beautiful,
And bade us live. Through ages undecayed
We joy in our existence :—pain or grief
Comes not to us ; but ever new delight
Meets us in all we see, and all we do.
Who made the sapphire waves of the great deep,
And reared the glittering many coloured hills ?
Who bade the winds breathe fragrance and sweet sounds,
And clothed the vallies with perfumed flowers,
The trees with all delicious fruits ? 'Twas he !
Praises to him,—all bountiful—all good,—
Creator of all beauty—all delight ;
The infinite—the everlasting GOD,—
The One Pure Spirit.

Glory to Him,—omnipotent—all wise—
Only Creator—of all nature Lord,—
The omnipresent, everlasting GOD—
The One Pure Spirit.

He bade the sun arise from the deep void
Of long enduring night, and circled it
With clouds of living fire. He also made
The lesser worlds that in their orbits move
Unerringly around. The abyss of space
He spread out with his hands, and set therein
Th' innumerable multitude of stars.

All things are from Him,—all on Him depend :—
He stretcheth out his hand,—and new worlds spring :

He speaketh,—and bright suns have passed away.
 He only from eternity hath been ;—
 He only to eternity must be.

Glory to Him,—omnipotent—all wise—
 Only Creator—of all nature Lord,—
 The omnipresent—everlasting GOD—
 The One Pure Spirit.

Midsummer Day's Dream.—Atherstone.

The sun enters Libra at 46 minutes after 7, of the evening of the 23rd of this month.

LUNAR PHENOMENA.

Phases of the Moon.

New Moon	6th day at 33 min. after 8 morning.
First Quarter 14th	.... 42 4
Full Moon 21st	.... 55 9
Last Quarter 28th	.... 28 4 afternoon.

Conjunctions of the Moon with the Planets and Stars.

Sept. 5th, with Regulus	.... at 5 morning.
5th, Saturn	..... 9 night.
6th, Mars	..... 7 evening.
8th, Mercury	..... 5 morning.
8th, Venus	..... 11 night.
11th, γ in Libra	.... 8
18th, Jupiter	..... 2 afternoon.

Telescopic Moon.

The surface of the moon, when examined with a telescope, presents a wonderful variety of aspect, being diversified with mountains, valleys, rocks and plains: the bright spots on the moon are the mountainous regions, the dark spots are the plains. Among the most remarkable of the bright spots are those which bear the following names:—Aristarchus, Hevelius, Kepler, Co-

pernicus, Gassendus and Tycho ; the most considerable of the less bright regions are thus denominated :—Mare Imbrium, Mare Humorum, Mare Vaporum, Mare Serenitatis, Mare Tranquilitatis, and Mare Crisium.

Aristarchus is a very brilliant portion of the moon, situated in the north-west quadrant ; it has been seen sometimes with great distinctness during an eclipse, also, when this part of the disc has not been illuminated by the direct rays of the sun. The following will give some idea of this part of the lunar surface.

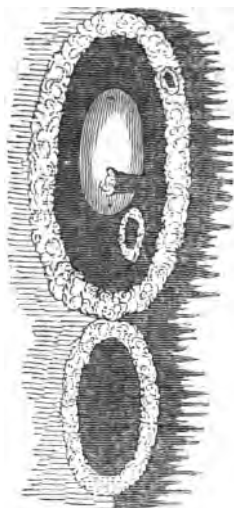
ARISTARCHUS.



Hevelius is south of Aristarchus, and near the eastern edge of the disc ; it consists of an annular ridge of mountains, within which is an oval cavity, and a broken elevation resembling an egg.

The following is a representation of this spot, and a smaller one contiguous to it.

HEVELIUS.



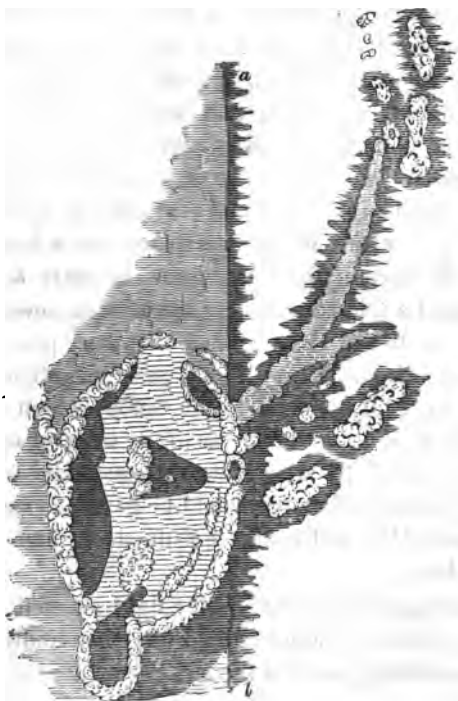
Kepler, south-west of Aristarchus, is a bright spot, apparently an annular mountain, on the summit of which is a circular range of small rocks, having in their centre, another mountain.

Copernicus is nearly due west of Kepler; this spot is of an annular form, with a central mountain, and broad margin, very luminous all round, with numerous rocks and mountains scattered to the north-east of it.

Gassendus, is south of Copernicus, and near a dark part of the moon called Mare Humorum; this spot is seen best, when the boundary of light and darkness passes near it; the shadow of the ridges, and the central mountain will then appear very conspicuous; the central mountain has three tops, one of which appears like a

bright spot in the shadow of the other, when the sun is in its horizon ; the height of this mountain, is about a quarter of a mile, and its base rather more than fourteen miles ; from this chain of mountains, there extends another in a diagonal direction, the summits of which are distinctly visible on the unenlightened limb of the moon. The following is a representation of this part of the lunar disc :—the dark edge (*a b*) represents the boundary between the illuminated and obscure part :—

GASSENDUS.



The most remarkable bright spot is Tycho, situated in the southern hemisphere, and west of Gassendus; it is of considerable magnitude, and of a circular form, in the centre of which is an insulated mountain; from this conspicuous spot, proceeds in every direction ranges of mountains, which extend through vast regions, which, when the moon is at the full, appear like brilliant radiations.

The dark spots, called seas, are not now believed to be such, as instead of being level like a fluid surface, they present every appearance of inequality; there may be rivers or small lakes, but not any large collections of water. Mare Humorum, is a dark well defined spot in the south-east quadrant, and bounded with rocks and ridges on its north-east extremity. Mare Crisium is a conspicuous dark spot on the western limb of the moon; it is bounded on its north and east margin, by a ridge of mountains; within its boundaries are two volcanoes.

The distance of the moon from the earth is 240,000 miles, and a telescope, whose magnifying power is 240, enables us to see the moon, as if it were placed only a thousand miles from us. The highest magnifying power applied to a telescope is about 6,450, which expands the lunar orb, as much as if it were placed at a distance of only 37 miles; but this proximity would not be an advantage, for what would be gained in magnifying power, would be lost in the indistinctness, and darkness of the object.

The illuminating power of the light derived from the moon, is about one hundred and fifty thousandth part of the illuminating power of the sun.

THE MOON.

I feel as if strong pinions on my feet
 Were lifting me from earth : I see the Moon
 Expanding as I rise. 'Tis lovelier now,
 Though seen but from mid-air. Long emerald hues,
 Mingled with purple, and the sapphire light
 That beams from evening waters, image there
 Bowers of bright beauty, solemn glades, soft hills
 Empurpled with the mantle of rich blooms,
 That know no time of fading, crystal lakes,
 Fanned but by musky gales, those sweet buds breathe.
 I've reached thee now, Thou art no paradise,
 Where injured Spirits brighten for high heaven;
 Thou art a lonely throne ; thy canopy
 Veils the resplendent Angel of our world.
 A thousand seraphs in their circles wait
 On Him, the Servant of a mightier One.

Literary Gazette.

PHENOMENA PLANETARUM.

Mercury will be stationary on the 13th. In conjunction with *Mars*, at 7 in the morning of the 26th. Inferior conjunction with the sun, at 6 in the evening of the 26th.

Venus will be stationary near 63 in *Virgo*, on the 17th. In conjunction with 53 in *Virgo*, on the 26th, difference of latitude 13'.

Phases of Venus.

The proportions of the bright and dark phases of this planet are as follow :—

September 1st.—Illuminated part = 3.2001

Dark part. = 8.7999

Mars in conjunction with the sun at 3 in the afternoon of the 24th.

The Asteroids.

The following will be the positions of these small planets on the 1st of the month :

Vesta, a degree east of 61 Gemini. Right ascension 7 hrs. 22 min. North declination $20^{\circ} 54'$.

Juno, a degree north-west of β in Cancer. Right ascension 8 hrs. 5 min. North declination $11^{\circ} 6'$.

Pallas, between 28 and 31 in Aquila. Right ascension 19 hrs. 12 min. North declination $11^{\circ} 58'$.

Ceres, in Globus Ethereus. Right ascension 20 hrs. 50'. South declination $30^{\circ} 53'$.

Jupiter, on the 1st, is near 32 in Capricornus.

Eclipses of the Satellites of Jupiter.

EMERSIONS.

First satellite,	4th day at 42 m.	1 s. after 11 night.
	13th	6 m. 23 s. 8
	20th	1 m. 57 s. 10
	27th	57 m. 36 s. 11
	29th	26 m. 29 s. 6
Second satellite,	4th	30 m. 25 s. 1 morning.
	21st	58 m. 31 s. 7 night.
	28th	34 m. 0 s. 10
Third satellite,	21st	13 m. 22 s. 9

IMMERSION.

Third satellite, 28th day at 41 m, 29 s. after 9 night.

REMARKABLE CONFIGURATIONS OF THE SATELLITES, At 8 in the evening.

On the 9th, the second satellite will be above the first; 12th, the first and second on the disc, the third and fourth to the west; 20th, the second and third in conjunction; and the first in the shadow of Jupiter. 28th, only the fourth satellite will be visible; the second and

third will be in the shadow, and the first on the disc;—
this will be a very remarkable configuration.

Saturn on the 1st, will be a degree to north of 457 in *Leo*.

Uranus on the 2nd, will be in conjunction with \S in *Capricornus*, difference of latitude 9'.

Sphere of the Fixed Stars.

Positions of the principal constellations, at the autumnal equinox, at 10 at night.

North-east quarter of the heavens. *Gemini* rising N.E. by N. *Cassiopeia* and *Auriga* N.E. by E. *Perseus* and *Taurus* E.N.E. the latter rising. *Triangulum* and *Musca*, East.

South-east quarter. *Andromeda*, *Aries*, and *Cetus*, E.S.E. *Pegasus* and *Pisces*, S.S.E. *Aquarius* and *Pisces Australis*, south.

South-west quarter. *Delphinus* and *Capricornus*, S.W. by S. *Cygnus*, *Aquila*, *Antinous*, and *Sagittarius*, S.W. the latter setting. *Serpentarius*, W. by S. *Lyra* and *Hercules*, west, the latter setting.

North-west quarter. *Draco* and *Corona Borealis*, W.N.W. *Boötes* N.W. by W. *Ursa Minor*, N.N.W. *Leo Minor* and *Ursa Major*, north.

Telescopic Objects, &c.

The nebula in the girdle of *Andromeda* has been known from the earlier ages of astronomy, at least as far back as the year 905 A. D.; it did not attract any particular notice till the time of *Simon Marius* in 1612; he described it as presenting the appearance of a candle seen through horn, that is a diluted light, increasing in density towards a centre. From the various descrip-

tions given of this nebula by Cassini and others, it is supposed that it is in a rapid progress towards condensation; in the centre there is an appearance resembling the undefined disc of a comet, 10 or 12 seconds in diameter; its form is that of two cones of light, joined at their base; it is very bright and of great magnitude, 40' in length by 15' in breadth.

Near δ in Cassiopeia is a mass of stars mixed with a nebulosity; this cluster appears like a solid ball, consisting of small stars, quite compressed into one blaze of light, with a great number of loose ones surrounding it.

ν , in Cygnus, is a triple star, the large star white, the others red.

β , in Lyra, is a quadruple star, three of which are white, and the fourth inclining to red.

Near χ in Perseus, are no fewer than forty stars.

γ , in Draco, though not remarkable as a telescopic object, is a star of considerable interest in astronomical history; it is the one employed by Bradley to ascertain the parallax of the earth's orbit, by which the distance of our system from the fixed stars might be determined; for it is evident, that, the earth moving in a circle, the diameter of which is 190 millions of miles, and its axis preserving its parallism, the extremity of this axis must point to different fixed stars, at two equally remote seasons of the year. A series of exceedingly minute observations were commenced on this star, in preference to others, as from its situation it was little affected by refraction; being only $2' 58''.5$ distant from the zenith of Greenwich, these observations were continued for a considerable time, and the result proved, that the parallax was a quantity not cognisable by any astrono-

mical instruments, however accurately constructed. It is true, a very minute result was obtained; but it was candidly admitted, that this might have been mingled up with the errors of observation, it being practically impossible to measure an angle that can be relied on, to the fraction of a second of space; if however, the parallax had amounted to one second, this great astronomer (Dr. Bradley,) thought he should have perceived it; his conclusion therefore was, that it did not amount to this, consequently γ in Draco is above 20,159,665,000,000 miles from our earth,—a distance through which light could not travel in less than three years!

That little gem, how large! a weight let fall
From a fix'd star, in ages can it reach
This distant earth?

How distant some of these nocturnal suns!
So distant (says the sage), 'twere not absurd
To doubt, if beams, set out at Nature's birth,
Are yet arrived at this so foreign world;
Though nothing half so rapid as their flight.

O let me gaze!—of gazing there's no end.
O let me think!—thought too is wilder'd here;
In mid-way flight Imagination tires;
Yet soon reprints her wings to soar anew,
Her point unable to forbear or gain.

Young.

A TABLE

Of the Sun's rising and setting, Equation of Time, Transits and Meridional Altitudes of the Planets.

SEPTEMBER.	SUN		Equation of Time subtr. from app. time	MERCURY.		VENUS.		MARS.		JUPITER.		SATURN.		URANUS.	
	rises.	sets.		Trans.	Alt.	Trans.	Alt.	Trans.	Alt.	Trans.	Alt.	Trans.	Alt.	Trans.	Alt.
Day. 1st, Thursday.	h. m. 5 13	h. m. 6 47	m. s. 0 0	h. m. 1 36a	° ' " 34 8	h. m. 2 18a	° ' " 26 59	h. m. 0 30a	° ' " 45 0	h. m. 10 29a	° ' " 21 6	h. m. 11 49m	° ' " 49 25	h. m. 10 15a	° ' " 20 31
7th, Wednesday	5 24	6 36	1 54	1 29	31 35	2 5	25 9	0 22	43 28	10 5	20 55	11 30	49 9	9 53	20 28
13th, Tuesday..	5 36	6 24	3 57	1 12	29 19	1 48	23 44	0 15	41 55	9 41	20 46	11 12	48 53	9 31	20 25
19th, Monday..	5 48	6 12	6 4	0 44	31 2	1 26	22 56	0 8	40 21	9 18	20 39	10 53	48 37	9 9	20 23
25th, Sunday...	6 0	6 0	8 9	0 5	34 10	0 59	22 52	0 0	38 46	8 55	20 33	10 34	48 21	8 47	20 21

O C T O B E R.

SOLAR PHENOMENA.

They rove for ever, without error rove ;
In motion all ! Yet what profound repose !
Mark now the labyrinthian turns they take ;
The circles intricate, and mystic maze,
Weave the grand cipher of Omnipotence.

SOME of the fixed stars have a motion peculiar to themselves, and it is well known that some double stars perform a revolution about their common centres of gravity ; these discoveries alone would suggest the probability, that our sun, with its system of planets, satellites and comets, were in motion through space ; but there is a phenomenon in the heavens which, it is believed, places this progressive motion of the sun, through space, beyond a doubt. The stars, in one quarter of the heavens, are drawing closer together, and in the opposite regions, receding farther apart from each other, which is precisely, what would be observed, were the sun moving through the celestial spaces. An idea may be formed of the nature of this phenomenon, by remembering the effect produced in walking through an extended avenue, —the trees in one direction would apparently recede from, and in the opposite direction, draw nearer to each other. A close examination of this motion of the stars,

has pointed out the direction in which the solar system is moving, and satisfactorily proved that our sun, with its numerous retinue, is approaching the constellation Hercules, but the nature of the path described, the rate of the motion, and the stupendous centre round which it revolves, at present remain in total mystery. "It is, however, considered by astronomers, as highly probable, if not certain,—from late observations, from the nature of gravitation, and other circumstances, that all the systems of the universe revolve round one common centre,—and that this centre may bear as great a proportion, in point of magnitude, to the universal assemblage of systems, as the sun does to its surrounding planets. And since our sun is five hundred times larger than the earth, and all the other planets and satellites taken together, on the same scale, such a central body would be five hundred times larger than all the systems and worlds in the universe. Here, then, may be a vast universe of itself—an example of material creation, exceeding all the rest in magnificence and splendor, and in which are blended the glories of every other system. This is the most sublime and magnificent idea, that can possibly enter the mind of man. We feel oppressed and overwhelmed in endeavouring to form even a faint representation of it. But, however much it may overpower our feeble conceptions, we ought not to revolt at the idea of so glorious an extension of the works of God, since nothing less magnificent seems suitable to a being of infinite perfections.—This grand central body may be considered as the *Capital of the Universe*."

The sun enters Scorpio at 3 minutes after 4 of the morning of the 24th of this month.

LUNAR PHENOMENA.

Phases of the Moon.

New Moon	5th day at 44 min. after	9 night.
First Quarter	13th 59	11
Full Moon	21st 44	8 morning.
Last Quarter	27th 2	midnight.

Conjunctions of the Moon with the Planets and Stars.

October 2nd, with Regulus	..... at noon.
3rd, Saturn	..... 10 morning.
4th, Mercury	..... 3 afternoon.
5th, Mars	..... noon.
5th, Venus	..... 8 evening.
15th, Jupiter	..... 9 night.
21st, $2\ \xi$ in Cetus	..... 10
22nd, μ in Cetus	..... 5 morning.
22nd, f in Taurus	..... midnight.
23rd, γ in Taurus	..... 8 night.
24th, Aldebaran	..... 2 morning.
30th, Saturn	..... 9 night.
31st, σ in Leo	..... 4 morning.

LUNAR OCCULTATIONS.

In the Astronomical Occurrences for October, 1830, a reference was made to the singular phenomenon of the apparent projection of Aldebaran on the disc of the moon previous to its disappearance; the cause of this remarkable illusion is not yet satisfactorily explained. The most celebrated astronomers in this country, and on the continent, differ very considerably in their recent observations of the occultations of this star; some have observed Aldebaran, in approaching the moon, to change its rosy tint for a whiteness as conspicuous as that of Venus; others have described it as varying its rate of motion, as if retarded, arrested, clinging to the disc, bisected by the edge of the disc, or fully projected on

the face of the moon;—while on the contrary, other astronomers have noted nothing whatever anomalous. Another remarkable circumstance connected with this phenomenon is, the time that the star seems thus retarded or projected;—observers vary in their statements, from one to ten seconds;—in one instance, in the same observatory, from two to six seconds of time.

A consideration of these anomalies induces the belief, that the lunar atmosphere occasions the retardation and change of colour at the edge of the disc, and the excitation of the eye, the apparent projection of the star on the face of the moon; with respect to the latter, the eye is strained for some seconds by intensely gazing on two bright bodies, which vary immensely in their relative magnitude, and in the nature of their light;—the star, sharp and twinkling, the moon, soft and quiescent; the eye also is more closely engaged with the star than the moon; it is therefore natural to suppose, that the image of the star is retained on the retina, after the sparkling point that impressed it has vanished; this image also may continue a longer or shorter space of time, according to the degrees of sensibility, in the eyes of different individuals. An occultation is an observation of severe trial to the vision, and when something unusual is predicted or expected, the mental powers, as well as visual organs, are then peculiarly excited, and conspire to produce the illusion. An optical phenomenon, which may admit of a similar explanation, has been observed when viewing a bright and dim star in a vertical line, as seen in the same field of view of a telescope; if the tube be slightly agitated, the dim star will appear as if suspended from the bright one, and will vary its position by a kind of

pendulous or oscillatory motion, just as a ball would do, hanging by a string and swinging to and fro. This has been accounted for by supposing that time may be required for light to affect the retina, as well as for its effect, when once produced, to fade away; a bright light may affect it in less time than a faint one, and the retina may feel more quickly and faithfully the impression and the change of place of a strongly illuminated point than one of less intensity.

The occultations of the stars in the Hyades, October, 5th and 6th, 1830. (See the Map of the Hyades, Ast. Occ., October, 1830,) were attended with partially favorable circumstances. The following were the observations at Deptford:—

The occultation of γ in Taurus on the night of the 5th, was invisible, from the intervention of the clouds. After midnight, the sky became as favorable as could be desired, when the following occultations were observed:—

	hrs.	min.	sec.	
71 in Taurus	Immersion 1	9 38	morning.
		Emersion 2	0 19	
θ 1.....		Immersion 2	16 28	
θ 2.....		Immersion 2	17 59	

These latter stars (1 and 2 θ in Taurus) appeared to cling to the lunar disc, at immersion. The sky became overcast at 2 hrs. 45 min., and continued unfavorable till 3 hrs. 36 min., when θ 1 and θ 2 were observed clear of the moon.

The appulse of Aldebaran was not seen; a gray mist completely covered the hemisphere at the time.

In the present year, Aldebaran will be visibly occulted in January, the present month, and December; the first of this series of occultations of this star began in February, 1829, and the last will occur in March, 1832.

PHENOMENA PLANETARUM.

Mercury, stationary on the 5th, after which, his course through the zodiac will be *direct*. From his stationary point before his superior conjunction on the 19th of July, to his stationary point after, the motion of Mercury was *direct*; and from his stationary point, before his *inferior* conjunction of the 26th September, to his stationary point after, his motion was *retrograde*. This phenomenon of the planets appearing at one time, to be moving in the order of the signs, or direct, and at another time, contrary to this order, or retrograde, is owing to their motions being combined with that of the earth; the earth moving between the orbits of the other bodies of the system, causes, to a terrestrial spectator, who considers himself at rest, most of those apparent irregularities, observed in the planetary motions. The periods of time in which the planets retreat in the zodiac with the spaces they describe, vary according to their distances and velocities, as in the following table:—

	Retrogradation in days.	Arcs of Retrogradation.	Velocity in miles, per second.
Mercury.....	22.....	12°	30
Venus.....	42.....	16	23
Earth .....	.....	.....	19
Mars	70.....	18	15
Jupiter	120.....	9	8
Saturn	135.....	6	6
Uranus	151.....	4	4

Mercury, in his ascending node on the 4th. In perihelion at 4 in the morning of the 9th. At his greatest elongation ($18^{\circ} 5'$) as a morning star on the 12th. In conjunction with η in Virgo on the 14th, at 5 in the morning, difference of latitude $28'$; with Venus, at 1 in the morning of the 17th; with 38 in Virgo, on the 20th,

ifference of latitude $2'$; with Mars, at 8 in the evening of the 26th.

Venus, in her inferior conjunction with the sun, at 30 min. after noon of the 8th. In conjunction with Mars, at 8 in the morning of the 9th. Stationary on the 29th. It has been ascertained that this beautiful planet may be seen every clear day, without interruption, during a period of 583 days, excepting about 35 hours before, and after her inferior conjunction. Jupiter can scarcely be perceived in the day time when within 26° of the sun.

Phases of Venus.

The following are the proportions of the bright and dark phases of this planet:—

October 1st.—Illuminated disc = 0.21127

Dark part. = 11.76873

Mars in conjunction with \S in Virgo, at 10 in the morning of the 18th.

The Asteroids.

Vesta, in conjunction with \S in Cancer on the 11th. Right ascension 8 hrs. 22 min. North declination $19^\circ 10'$.

Juno, in conjunction with 2 in Sextans Uranie on the 17th. Right ascension 9 hrs. 27 min. North declination $5^\circ 25'$.

Pallas, two degrees south of σ in Aquila on the 23rd. Right ascension 19 hrs. 28 min. North declination $2^\circ 45'$.

Ceres is in the southern regions of Capricornus. Right ascension (on the 3rd,) 20 hrs. 42 min. South declination $30^\circ 15'$.

Jupiter, stationary on the 10th.

Eclipses of the Satellites of Jupiter.

EMERSIONS.

First satellite,	6th day at 22 m. 13 s. after 8 night.
13th	18 m. 0 s. 10
22nd	42 m. 48 s. 6
29th	38 m. 37 s. 8
Second satellite, 23rd	38 m. 58 s. 7

IMMERSION.

Fourth satellite, 16th day at 31 m. 25 s. after 8 night.

REMARKABLE CONFIGURATIONS OF THE SATELLITES, At 7 in the evening.

On the 6th, the first satellite in the shadow of Jupiter, and the second, third and fourth clustering together. 18th, the first will appear beneath the second. 23rd, the second behind Jupiter, and the third on the disc.

Law of the Planetary Distances.

The excesses of the distances of the planets, above the distance of Mercury from the sun, form a geometrical series, of which the common ratio is 2. (See T. T. Ast. Occ. April, 1830). The distances of the satellites, from their centres, have been examined with a view to ascertain whether a similar law prevails with regard to them; from this examination it appears incontestible, that this curious analogy, hitherto entirely unexplained, obtains in the secondary, as well as the primary systems. The common ratio, in the case of Jupiter, is $2\frac{1}{2}$ nearly. In the case of Saturn, it appears to be 2 for the first five, and 3 for the last three satellites. In the case of Uranus, the ratio is $1\frac{1}{2}$ nearly. The apparent irregularity in the case of Saturn may be connected with the disturbing influence of his ring. In the system of Uranus, it is

necessary to suppose *nine* satellites; and thus, in the same manner in which the law applied to the planets led astronomers to conjecture the existence of a planet between Mars and Jupiter, may sanction the supposition, when applied to the satellites of Uranus, that there exist, as yet undiscovered, two satellites between the 4th and the 5th, and one between the 5th and the 6th of those at present known. A lapse of six years occurred between the discovery of the primary, and the first observation of the 2nd and 4th satellites, and thirteen years before the other four were seen.

Saturn in conjunction with χ in Leo, on the 29th, difference of latitude 19'.

FORM OF SATURN'S RING.

October 7th, Semi-transverse axis ——— 37".93

Semi-conjugate axis ——— 3.19

Uranus, stationary on the 21st, near α in Capricornus.

Though this planet was discovered to be such by Herschel, it had been observed nearly a century before, by Flamsteed, in different places of the heavens, and registered in each position as a fixed star. The earliest observation is December 13th, 1690, as β in Taurus; another observation occurred, March 22nd, 1712, as ρ in Leo: there are also three observations in 1715, which agree with the position of the planet at that time.

Sphere of the Fixed Stars.

Positions of the principal constellations on the 15th of the month, at 11 at night.

Direction of the Zodiac. Cancer rising N.E. Gemini clear of the horizon, E. N. E. Taurus, E. by S. Aries, S.E. by S. Pisces on the meridian. Aquarius, S.W. by S. Capricornus setting S.W. by W.

Apparatus Sculptoris on the meridian south of the zodiac. **Pegasus**, **Andromeda** and **Cassiopeia** between the zodiac and the pole. The tail of **Draco**, and the tail of **Ursa Major** are below the pole. **Cygnus** and **Lyra**, west of the **Zenith**. **Perseus**, **Orion**, and **Monoceros**, east of the **Zenith**.

Telescopic Objects.

Towards the latter part of the month, the positions of **Orion**, **Monoceros**, **Taurus**, **Perseus** and **Aries** will be favorable for a comparison of some remarkable stars in these constellations. Nothing terrestrial can adequately illustrate the loveliness and beauty of some of these, excepting the splendor and brilliancy of jewels, when placed in their most eligible position for revealing their varied hues. The contrast of color in double, triple, and multiple stars is of a singular nature,—a white star is usually combined with a blue or purple; the association of a red and white is less frequent; a yellow, orange or red, large star, is generally connected with a blue or purple small one; one of this description occurs in **Perseus**, the large star is orange, the small one, a fine sky blue; a large star in **Monoceros** is of a rich ruby, or blood color, and the small one, a fine green; a similar combination occurs in **Aries**; there are numerous red single stars,—**Aldebaran**, **Betelgeux**, **Antares** and others, but no instance has been observed of a solitary green, blue, or purple.

Near 11 in **Monoceros**, is a triple star, which at first sight appears only double; this star has been considered the most beautiful in the heavens.

Rigel, the star in the foot of **Orion** is double, but cannot be satisfactorily seen to be such, but when near,

or on the meridian, even then, it is one of the severest tests of a telescope, which, if it be not extremely perfect, will envelope the small star in the false light of the very bright large one.

Sweet, passing sweet, to fill those far abodes
 With scenes more bright than this dim world e'er knew—
 With beings nobler than poetic gods—
 With winds whose breath is bliss—with streams whose hue
 Pales the clear diamond, as they murmur through
 Evergreen woods to seek a deep more fair
 With sacred flowers that shed immortal dew
 Round the pure feet of them who wander there,
 On starrier skies to muse, in happier fates to share.

But sweeter far to dream that in some world,
 Some distant world, that gems the blue night's dome ;
 The spirit's wings, on earth in darkness furled,
 May woo the soft winds of a lovelier home !
 As Beauty sprung from the pure ocean-foam,
 May not Truth float on the rich depths of song ?—
 But where, oh where would fond conjecture roam ?
 Our clueless phantasies may stray too long
 The labyrinthine bowers of Night and Heaven among.

* * * *

Temple of light and loveliness

And throne of grandeur, can it be
 That souls, whose kindred loftiness
 Nature hath framed to rise to thee,
 Should pine within this narrow space,
 This prison of mortality ?

Awake, ye mortals ! raise your eyes
 To these eternal starry spheres :
 Look on these glories of the skies,
 And see how poor this world appears,
 With all its pomps and vanities—
 With all its hopes and all its fears.

Of the Sun's rising and setting, Equation of Time, Transits and Meridional Altitudes of the Planets.

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NOVEMBER.

He saw the struggling beams of infant light
Shoot through the massy gloom of ancient night ;
His spirit hushed the elemental strife,
And brooded o'er the kindling seeds of life,
Seasons and months began the long procession,
And measured o'er the year in bright succession.

The joyful sun sprung up th' ethereal way,
Strong as a giant, as a bridegroom gay :
And the pale moon diffused her shadowy light
Superior o'er the dusky brow of night ;
Ten thousand glittering lamps the skies adorning,
Numerous as dew-drops from the womb of morning.

THE light diffused from the sun diminishes in intensity as the square of the distance from the orb increases. According to this ratio, the proportional quantities of light received by the bodies of the solar system, that of the earth being unity, are as follows:—

Mercury 6.673. Venus 1.911. Earth 1. Mars .4307. Vesta .17835. Juno .14037. Ceres .13058. Pallas .13005. Jupiter .0369. Saturn .0109. Uranus .0027. The comet of 1680, which at its aphelion is 138 times more remote from the sun, than the earth is, receives six times as much light from the sun, as our earth does from the full moon. The light received by Uranus is 246 times as great as the full moon is to us.

The light which beams on our minute globe, and displays such a profusion of bounty and beauty, may be considered nothing more than a single stream of celestial radiance, out of ninety thousand billions of similar streams, which it is computed that the great source of light is every moment diffusing throughout its vast domains!

The sun will eclipse Mercury on the 12th. The longitude of the ascending node of Mercury is 1 sign, 16 degrees, 17 min. 57.6 sec., having a secular motion in consequentia of $1^{\circ} 10' 30''$. When Mercury is in either of his nodes, at his inferior conjunction, at the time that the earth has the same longitude, he will transit the sun's disc; this very interesting and rare phenomenon will occur on the 5th of May, 1832.

The sun enters Sagittarius at 35 minutes after midnight of the 22d.

LUNAR PHENOMENA.

Phases of the Moon.

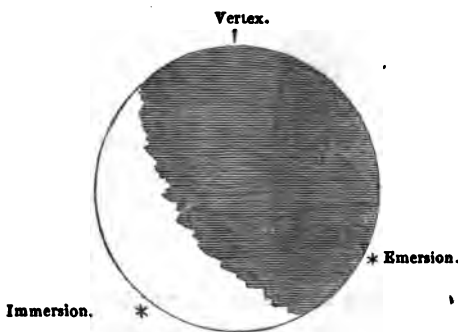
New Moon	4th day at 38 m. after	1 afternoon.
First Quarter	12th 45	6 evening.
Full Moon	19th 57	6
Last Quarter	26th 28	10 morning.

Conjunctions of the Moon with the Planets and Stars.

November 1st, with Venus	..... at	1 afternoon.
3rd, Mars	.....	6 morning.
3rd, Mercury	.....	10 night.
8th, 2 μ in Sagittarius		6 evening.
12th, Uranus.....		2 morning.
12th, Jupiter....		9
25th, Regulus		11 night.
27th, Saturn		6 morning.
30th, Venus		3

OCCULTATION OF SATURN.

Saturn will be occulted by the moon on the morning of the 27th of this month. Immersion at the bright limb of the moon at 54 minutes after 4. Emersion at 3 minutes after 6. The following diagram will illustrate the phase and position of the moon, and the points of immersion and emersion:—



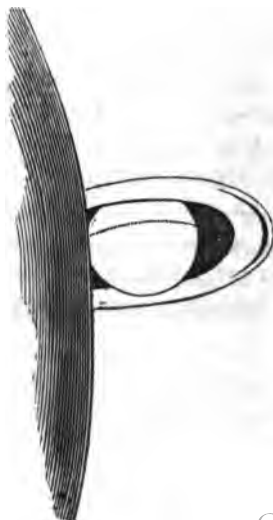
When Saturn was occulted on the 30th of October, 1825, a singular phenomenon was observed; that part of the ring of Saturn, which last emerged from the moon's dark limb, was rendered sensibly more obtuse, and at the instant after separation, approximated to a rectilinear boundary; an effect obviously analogous to that which the earth's atmosphere produces upon the lower limb of the sun or moon, when emerging from the horizon. The following will convey an idea of its appearance.

Dark limb of the Moon.



A similar effect was also observed on the orb of Saturn; the following will suggest an idea of its nature.

Dark limb of the Moon.



The occultation of Venus on the 15th of October, 1830. (See T. T. Ast. Occ. October, 1830,) occurred under unusually favorable circumstances of atmosphere; the moon escaped from a low stratum of mist at 4hrs. 53m. Venus was then invisible, and the immersion must have occurred in or near the horizon. At 5hrs. 30 m. the planet emerged from behind the moon's dark limb.

The golden light of the extremely narrow crescent of the moon, and the brilliant whiteness of Venus, formed a beautiful contrast. The sky was remarkably clear and serene, and the lumière cendrée of the moon's unenlightened disc, distinctly visible. No particular distortion of the shape of the planet during its emersion was perceptible; but when quite visible, it seemed as if attached to the dark part of the moon for more than 7".

To see, starting forth with sudden splendour, the bright morning star (Phosphorus) from behind the moon's dark limb, must have been equally pleasing and astonishing to the unconscious night traveller, who had been hailing the moon's delicate crescent as the precursor of the rising day.

Atmospheres of the Planets and Moon.

The terrestrial atmosphere has such various and important uses, that in tracing the resemblance between our earth, and the other bodies of the system, it is natural to enquire whether they possess such a transparent fluid, which is as remarkable for its abundant advantages, as for the simplicity of its construction.

The dazzling splendour of the rays of Mercury, the shortness of the interval during which observations can be made, and his proximity to the vapours of the horizon when he shines as the morning, or the evening star, have

hitherto prevented the discoveries of any atmosphere surrounding this planet; no traces of such a medium could be perceived in his transit across the disc of the sun in 1802.

Venus possesses an atmosphere probably more dense than that of our earth; this planet is apparently loaded with vapours in a state of continual change of absorption and precipitation. About the middle of the 17th century, the surface of Venus was seen for many years chequered with irregular spots, these became gradually more faint and indistinct, and for near a century, have disappeared; the whole surface now appears of one uniform brilliant white. The atmosphere is probably filled with a reflecting vapour thinly diffused through it, like water faintly tinged with milk; the illuminated crescent of Venus is considerably more than a hemisphere, and the light gradually dies away to the bounding margin, which is the very appearance the earth would make if furnished with such an atmosphere, the boundary of illumination would have a penumbra reaching about nine degrees beyond it.

Mars has an atmosphere which appears precisely like our own, supporting clouds and depositing snows; when by the obliquity of his axis of rotation, to the plane of his revolution, his north pole is turned towards the sun, it is observed to be occupied by a broad white spot; as the summer of that region advances, this spot gradually wastes, and sometimes vanishes, and then the south pole comes in sight, surrounded in like manner with a white spot, which undergoes similar changes. This is precisely the appearance which the circumpolar regions of this earth would exhibit to an observer in Mars. A

small star, occulted by Mars was observed to become very faint before its appulse to the disc. The remarkable redness of this planet is owing to the great density of its atmosphere; the momentum of red rays being greater than the violet, the former make their way through the resisting medium and arrive at the eye sooner than the latter, which are either reflected or absorbed; the dim light, therefore, by which Mars is illuminated, having to pass twice through his atmosphere, before it reaches the earth, must be deprived of a great portion of its violet rays, and consequently the colour of the resulting light, by which Mars is visible, must be red.

The immense atmospheres of the two asteroids, Ceres and Pallas, assimilate them to cometary bodies, to which in general, these, with Juno and Vesta, bear no distant affinity, by the great inclination and eccentricity of their orbits. The atmosphere of Ceres is 675 miles high, and like that of the earth is very dense near the orb; the atmosphere of Pallas is 468 miles high, and is subject to great changes, sometimes appearing as if surrounded with a dense mist, which suddenly clears up and exhibits a well defined disc; both these asteroids have a ruddy appearance, though not so intensely red as the planet Mars.

The spots and belts of Jupiter are not exactly stationary on his disc, but are observed to undergo changes similar to what would be observed from a distance, of the clouds of the terrestrial atmosphere; whence they are supposed to be clouds floating in his atmosphere from some unknown cause (probably the swiftness of his rotation, or the attraction of his satellites,) more permanent and defined than any of the clouds of the earth;

from the revolutions of some of these spots, it has been supposed that monsoons take place in the atmosphere of Jupiter, as they do in that of the earth.

Saturn is scarcely inferior in ruddiness to Mars, and the belts on his orb exhibit similar mutations to those observed in Jupiter; it may thence be inferred that this planet is also surrounded with an atmosphere.

Uranus is too remote for satisfactory observation on his physical constitution.

Having ascertained the existence of an atmosphere in some of the planets, we proceed to make inquiry with respect to the satellites of the system, though with little hopes of being able to ascertain the point, excepting in our own satellite, the moon.

Many have supposed the moon destitute of an atmosphere, principally from observing a constant serenity on its surface,—no variation of appearance, such as might be supposed to arise from clouds and vapours; clouds of the magnitude and opacity of such as too frequently obscure the heavens from the British Isles, would be seen passing over the lunar regions with great distinctness. The circumstance of there being no clouds is probably connected with the nonexistence of large collections of water to be converted into vapour.

The appearances of the fixed stars and planets when occulted by the moon afford satisfactory proof of the existence of a lunar atmosphere; in general when these come in contact with the edge of the moon, they change their rate of motion, and suffer a variation of colour, and diminution of their brightness; the remarkable phenomena attending the occultation of Jupiter and his satellites, the stars in the Hyades and the planet Saturn

(See Ast. Occ. for June, October, and the present month) cannot be satisfactorily accounted for, but from the refraction of the lunar atmosphere.

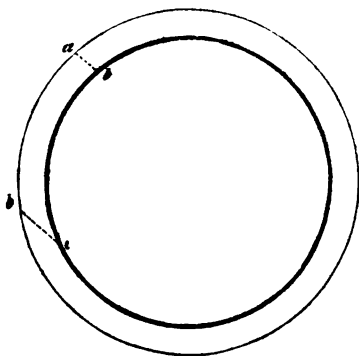
A singular and satisfactory proof of the existence of this atmosphere was afforded at Deptford, September 25, 1827. Shortly after 6 in the evening of that day, the moon was observed approaching the double star β in Scorpio; the star was so close to the southern cusp as to appear to form a continuation of that broken curve which is seen at the extremities of the cusps of the moon when three days old. As the moon approached the double star, it seemed uncertain whether both, or only one, would be occulted; at length, the light of the smaller star, that nearest the moon, was observed sensibly to diminish, and very shortly afterwards the star itself disappeared, leaving its brighter companion gliding beneath.

In the following diagram (a) will indicate the double star before the immersion of the small one; (b) the position of the large star about the middle of the occultation, and (c) the emersion.



The diminution of the light of the smaller star was very evident before it disappeared, and this continued longer

than it would have done had the impact been near, or in the direction of the moon's centre; in this instance it had to pass through a larger portion of the atmosphere, being occulted by a very small segment of the lunar disc; this will be sufficiently evident by inspecting the following diagram;



the inner circle represents the moon, and the outer circle the atmosphere; it is plain, that the line ($b\ c$) is longer than ($a\ b$). In this illustration ($b\ c$) is the path of the small star in β in Scorpio; the two stars are 14" distant from each other, and both are of a reddish hue.

The atmosphere of comets seems of a nature totally different to that of the moon or planets, and is of inconceivable rarity even when it reflects a very sensible light. The tail is always turned nearly away from the sun, probably by the impulse of the solar rays; the velocity of the reflecting particles which constitute the tail of a comet is astonishingly great; the comet of 1680 went half round the sun in ten hours, and had a tail at least a hundred millions of miles long, which turned round at

the same time, keeping nearly in the direction opposite to the sun; the velocity necessary for this is prodigious, approaching to that of light.

I not believe that the great Architect,
 With all these fires, the heavenly arches decked
 Only for show, and with these glistening shields
 T'amaze poor shepherds watching in the fields;
 I not believe that the least flower which pranks
 Our garden bowers, or on our common banks,
 And the least stone, that, in her warming lap,
 Our mother earth doth covetously wrap,
 Hath some peculiar virtue of its own,
 And that the glorious Stars of Heaven have none.

Sylvester's Du Bartas.

PHENOMENA PLANETARUM.

Mercury will be in conjunction with λ in Virgo, at 4 in the afternoon of the 3rd, difference of latitude $26'$; with 1.2α in Libra at 5 in the afternoon of the 8th, difference of latitude $1'$ and $3'$. Eclipsed by the sun on the 12th. In aphelion at 4 in the morning of the 22d.

Venus will be in her ascending node at 9 in the morning of the 15th. In conjunction with δ in Virgo at 6 in the evening of the 22d. At her greatest splendour as a morning star on the 30th.

Phases of Venus.

The following are the proportions of the bright and dark phases of this planet:—

November 1st.—Illuminated disc = 1.8433

Dark part. = 10.1567

Mars will be in conjunction with λ in Virgo at 5 in the afternoon of the 14th, difference of latitude $2'$; with 1.2α in Libra at 8 in the evening of the 26th; difference of latitude $1'$ and $30''$.

The Asteroids.

Vesta will be in conjunction with 78 in Cancer on the 16th. Right ascension 8 hrs. 59 min. North declination $18^{\circ} 2'$.

Juno will be in conjunction with 15 Sextans Urania on the 8th. Right ascension 9 hrs. 57 min. North declination $2^{\circ} 40'$.

Pallas will be in conjunction with η in Antinous on the 10th. Right ascension 19 hrs. 42 min. North declination $0^{\circ} 39'$. η in Antinous is a very remarkable star; it belongs to that class termed variable; its greatest and least magnitudes are between the 3d and the 5th. Its period of variation 7 days 4 hrs. 15 min. It continues 40 hours at its greatest brightness, 30 at its least, and 36 on its increase.

Ceres is in Globus Ethereus. Right ascension on the 4th, 20 hrs. 58 min. South declination $27^{\circ} 52'$.

Jupiter will be in quadrature at 11 at night of the 6th. In conjunction with ι in Capricornus on the 19th; difference of latitude $24'$.

Eclipses of the Satellites of Jupiter.

EMERSIONS.

First satellite,	14th day at 59 m. 8 s. after 6 evening.
	21st 54 m. 54 s. ... 8
	30th 19 m. 34 s. 5
Second satellite,	24th 21 m. 49 s. 7
Third satellite,	3rd 24 m. 3 s. 9 night.
Fourth satellite,	2nd 28 m. 2 s. 7

IMMERSION.

Third satellite, 3rd day at 51 m, 56 s. after 5 evening.

REMARKABLE CONFIGURATIONS OF THE SATELLITES,
At 7 in the evening.

On the 6th and 23d the fourth satellite will be at its greatest eastern elongation, and on the 14th at its greatest western elongation. 24th, the second in the shadow of the primary, the first above the third to the west, and the fourth to the east of Jupiter.

FORM OF SATURN'S RING.

November 16th, Semi-transverse axis ——— 39".95
Semi-conjugate axis ——— 2.22

Uranus will be in quadrature at 30 min. after 7 in the evening of the 3d.

Sphere of the Fixed Stars.

Positions of the principal constellations on the 22nd, at 11 at night.

The northern celestial hemisphere shines forth in all its glory, the brightest stars, and most splendid constellations, are above the horizon. Aries and Taurus divide the meridian. Cassiopeia, Lyra, Draco, and Ursa Minor are circling the pole, west of the meridian. The bright stars in Aries, (Arietis) and in Cetus, (Menkar) are declining in the west. The survey, east of the meridian, is unspeakably grand,—Charles's Wain urging its course up the steep of heaven, followed by "Arcturus and his sons." Regulus and Sirius rising above the horizon to shed their lustre across the midnight sky. Aldebaran, with its red light, and the mild lustre of its companions in the Hyades, send forth their streams of radiance; the Pleiades, with their "sweet influences," add to the beauty of the scene. Pre-eminently grand and beautiful,—Orion, like the archangel of the starry hosts, marshals his bright legions, and suspends his watchful light over the sleeping nations.

Familiar strangers ! ye who from our youth
Gleam on our eyes to prove how dark and blind
Is human thought, where Fancy ekes out Truth,
And shadowy dreams usurp the place assigned
To life's realities, from which the mind
Flies to ideal worlds, peopling the stars
With shapes of love and beauty—far behind
The truth of their bright mystery, which it mars
Because it may not pass Fate's adamantine bars.

The blue Pacific of Infinity,
Gemmed with the sacred islets of the skies—
Each isle a world upon a sapphire sea,
And every world perchance a paradise !
There only that sweet vision of the wise
And tuneful of past times is *not* a dream—
There only do those " Blissful Isles " arise,
Whose fame yet murmurs on the Muse's stream,
But whose proud shades did ne'er on mortal waters gleam.

Telescopic Objects.

One of the most interesting discoveries of modern astronomy, is the beautiful binary system of ξ in Ursa Major; the period occupied by some double stars in performing their revolutions is immense, in some instances extending to upwards of two thousand years; in this double star, in Ursa Major, the revolution is exceedingly rapid, the velocity of the small star about the larger, is nearly $6\frac{1}{2}$ degrees in a year, so that it will complete its orbit in less than 57 years. μ in Boötes, μ in Cassiopeia, and 61 in Cygnus, are of the same class; the latter of these wonderful objects, has, since its first discovery, moved over no less than four degrees of the heavens.

There are some heavenly bodies of a singular description, which, from their defined discs, have been

termed *planetary nebulae*, differing from other *nebulae* by their uniform brightness, and the edges of their discs appearing like those of the planets, when seen through a telescope. One of these is near 13 in Andromeda (Flamstead's Catalogue); it has a round, bright, defined disc, of about 12" in diameter. Another is observed near h in Cygnus, which is perfectly round, and of an equal faint light; its diameter is 60", and its outline well defined. Notwithstanding their magnitude, their light is so feeble, as not to equal that of a star of the 8th or the 9th magnitude, consequently they cannot be bodies like our sun, as a part of the solar disc equal to their diameter, would exceed the greatest lustre of the full moon. It has been conjectured that these singular masses, are systems of suns, in a progressive state of decay.

A *sixth* star was discovered in the trapezium of the nebula of Orion, 13th February, 1830. For an account of the discovery of the *fifth* star, see Ast. Occ. for February, 1830.

The mandate hath gone forth,—
'Be dark!'—and they are darken'd; and all life
Dies, and all motion ceaseth, and all sound:
The ocean hath no waves; the air no winds;
The streams no course; the blank orb, shuddering,
Stands still; the whirling planets, with a jar,
Shock—and are fixed.

Lo! even now
An awful wreck is nigh; nor yet quite dark,
Myriads of earthly years have passed away
Since I beheld it; yet it glimmers still.
Seest thou not, as we pause an instant here,
Right opposite, amid the depth of blackness,

That huge round of dark, drear, and crimson glow,
As 'twere a balefire for the fields of space
Burned to its last red embers? And behold!
Even here beside us, in the dusk, dark beam,
Dimly distinguished, a dependant world,
That with its ruler perished :—cold and dark,—
Slowly decaying in the vault of night.

Atherstone.

Who on low earth can moderate the rein
That guides the stars along th' ethereal plain?
Appoint their seasons, and direct their course,
Their lustre brighten, and supply their force?
Canst thou the skies benevolence restrain
And cause the Pleiades to shine in vain?
Or, when Orion sparkles from his sphere,
Thaw the cold season, and unbind the year?
Bid Mazzaroth his destined station know,
And teach the bright Arcturus where to glow?
Mine is the night, with all her stars; I pour
Myriads, and myriads I reserve in store.

God of the fair and open sky!
How gloriously above us springs
The tinted robe of Heavenly blue
Suspended on the rainbow's rings;
Each brilliant star that sparkles through,
Each gilded cloud that wanders free
In evening's purple radiance—gives
The beauty of its praise to thee.

God of the rolling orbs above!
Thy name is written clearly bright
In the warm day's unvarying blaze,
Or evening's golden shower of light.
For every fire that fronts the sun,
And every spark that walks alone
Around the utmost verge of heaven,
Were kindled at thy burning throne.

A TABLE

Of the Sun's rising and setting, Equation of Time, Transits and Meridional Altitudes of the Planets.

NOVEMBER.	SUN		Equation of Time	MERCURY.		VENUS.		MARS.		JUPITER.		SATURN.		URANUS.	
	rises.	sets.	subt. from appt. time	Trans.	Alt.	Trans.	Alt.	Trans.	Alt.	Trans.	Alt.	Trans.	Alt.	Trans.	Alt.
Day,	h. m.	h. m.	m. s.	h. m.	° ' "	h. m.	° ' "	h. m.	° ' "	h. m.	° ' "	h. m.	° ' "	h. m.	° ' "
1st, Tuesday ..	7 11	4 49	16 15	11 35m	27 49	9 54m	33 25	11 11m	29 8	6 40a	20 46	8 31m	46 57	6 28	20 18
7th, Monday ..	7 21	4 39	16 10	11 49	23 57	9 38	34 3	11 2	27 39	6 18	20 56	8 9	46 46	6 5	20 19
13th, Sunday ...	7 31	4 29	15 35	0 0	20 30	9 25	34 5	10 54	26 13	5 56	21 7	7 47	46 37	5 42	20 20
19th, Saturday .	7 41	4 19	14 30	0 14a	17 36	9 15	33 35	10 44	24 49	5 35	21 20	7 24	46 29	5 19	20 22
25th, Friday ...	7 49	4 11	12 56	0 28	15 18	9 7	32 40	10 35	23 29	5 13	21 35	7 0	46 23	4 56	20 24

DECEMBER.

SOLAR PHENOMENA.

What magic, what strange art
In fluid air, these ponderous orbs sustains?
Who would not think them hung in golden chains?
And so they are; in the high will of heaven,
Which fixes all; makes adamant of air,
Or air of adamant.

The densities of the Sun, Jupiter, and Venus, are nearly the same; those of the other bodies of the system vary considerably; the following are their proportions, the density of the earth being taken as unity:—the Sun .256. Mercury 2.777. Venus .943. Earth 1. Moon .065. Mars 1.007. Jupiter .260. Saturn .106. Uranus .244.

The quantity of matter in the sun, that of the earth being unity, is 354936; according to the same proportion, the masses of the planets are as follow:—Mercury .175. Venus .874. Earth 1. Moon .0133. Mars .139. Jupiter 331.6. Saturn 101.06. Uranus 19.809; the quantity of matter in cometary bodies is supposed to be very inconsiderable in proportion to their bulk: the comet of 1770 passed through the system of Jupiter without in the slightest degree affecting the motions of the satellites; the same comet also passed so near to our earth, that the length of the year would have been

altered, had that erratic body consisted of matter proportioned to its magnitude.

The proportional magnitude or volume of the sun, that of the earth being unity, is 1384480.932, and according to the same proportion, the magnitudes of the planets are as follows:—Mercury .063. Venus .927. Earth 1. Moon .020. Mars .138. Jupiter 1280.824. Saturn 994.609. Uranus 81.295.

The Sun enters Capricornus at 6 minutes after 1 of the afternoon of the 22d of this month.

LUNAR PHENOMENA.

Phases of the Moon.

New Moon 4th day at 48 min. after 7 morning.
 First Quarter 12th 22 11
 Full Moon 19th 10 5
 Last Quarter 25th 10 midnight.

Conjunctions of the Moon with the Planets and Stars.

December 2d, with Mars.....at 3 morning.
 5th, Mercury 10
 9th, Uranus..... 10
 9th, Jupiter..... 11 night.
 15th, 2 ξ in Cetus .. 8
 16th, μ in Cetus 3 morning.
 16th, ... f in Taurus 10 night.
 17th, γ in Taurus.... 5 afternoon.
 17th, Aldebaran..... 11 night.
 23d, Regulus 7 morning.
 24th, Saturn 2 afternoon.
 29th, Venus 7 evening.
 31st, Mars..... 3 morning.

PHENOMENA PLANETARUM.

Mercury, at his greatest elongation (19° . 48) as an evening star on the 25th. In his ascending node at 2 in the afternoon of the 31st.

Venus, in conjunction with κ in Virgo on the 11th, difference of latitude $20'$. At her greatest elongation ($40^\circ 55'$) as a morning star on the 18th.

Phases of Venus.

The following are the proportions of the bright and dark phases of this planet:—

December 1st.—Illuminated disc = 4.7696

Dark part..... = 7.2304

Mars, in conjunction with 28 in Libra on the 7th, difference of latitude $30''$; with 41 in Libra on the 13th, difference of latitude $30''$; with λ in Libra on the 18th, difference of latitude $3'$; with 1 and 2 ω in Scorpio on the 23d, difference of latitude $7'$ and $3'$.

The Asteroids.

Vesta, in conjunction with 83 in Cancer on the 2d. Right ascension 9 hrs. 7 min. North declination $18^\circ 11'$.

Juno, in conjunction with 30 Sextans Urania on the 1st. Right ascension 10 hrs. 21 min. North declination $0^\circ 27'$.

Pallas, a degree north of 66 in Antinous on the 2d. Right ascension 20 hrs. 5 min. South declination 1° .

Ceres, in conjunction with 41 in Aquarius on the 31st. Right ascension 22 hrs. 3 min. South declination $21^\circ 10'$.

Eclipses of the Satellites of Jupiter.

EMERSIONS.

First satellite,	7th day at 15 m. 11 s. after 7 night.
23d	.... 35 m. 2 s. 5 evening.
Third satellite,	9th 32 m. 29 s. 5

IMMERSION.

Third satellite,	16th 4 m. 11 s. 6 evening.
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REMARKABLE CONFIGURATIONS OF THE SATELLITES.

At 6 in the evening.

On the 9th all the satellites to the east, and on the 15th all to the west of Jupiter. 22d the first on the disc, the fourth in the shadow, and the second and third to the west of the primary. 30th the first in the shadow, the fourth on the disc, the second to the east, and the third to the west of the planet.

Saturn, in quadrature at 45 min. after 2 of the afternoon of the 7th. Stationary near σ in Leo on the 24th.

FORM OF SATURN'S RING.

December 26th, Semi-transverse axis.... 42'.86

Semi-conjugate axis 2 .00

Uranus, in conjunction with \S in Capricornus at 8 in the morning of the 6th, difference of latitude 6'.

Sphere of the Fixed Stars.

It has been computed that nearly an hundred millions of stars might be perceived by the most perfect instruments, were all the regions of the sky thoroughly explored; and yet, all this vast assemblage of suns and worlds, compared with what lies beyond the utmost boundaries of human vision, may be no more, than as the smallest particle of vapour to the immense ocean. Immeasurable regions of space lie beyond the utmost limits of mortal view, into which even imagination itself can scarcely penetrate and which are doubtless replenished with the infinitely diversified operations of *Divine Wisdom* and *Omnipotence*.

O Heavens !—O beautiful and boundless sky !

Upon whose breast stars and pale planets lie,

Unnumbered and innumerable, ever

Mocking with bright'ning eyes man's vain endeavour !—

Thou radiant wilderness, through which the moon
 Moves like a spirit, without voice or tune
 Accompanied, or song or choral shout,
 Save what the universal spheres send out
 For age,—inaudible, though vast and deep,—
 Thou world of worlds ; within whose arms the sun
 Awakens ; and, when his bright task is done,
 Like a reposing child, lies down to sleep,
 Amongst thy golden bowers ! —————

—————O gentle Heaven !
 Art thou indeed the home,—the happy shore,
 Where creatures wearied of the earth are driven,—
 Where Hate is not,—where Envy cannot soar,
 And nought save unimaginable Love,
 And tenderest peace (a white and winged dove,)
 And beauty and perennial bloom are seen,
 And angels breathing in Elysian air
 Divinest music, and young shapes more fair
 Than Houris pacing soft through pathways ever green !—

Barry Cornwall.

With the following poem, we conclude the Astronomical Occurrences of the year 1831.

THE HEAVENS.

Midst dazzling rays ! Midst dazzling rays !
 Of glorious orbs I wing my flight ;
 Whose lustre mocks the diamond's blaze
 With beams unutterably bright.

The glittering stars ! The glittering stars !
 Of emerald, topaz, ruby hue ;
 That roll along their radiant cars
 Through heaven's unfathomed depths of blue.

Orion's beams ! Orion's beams !
 His star gemmed belt, and shining blade ;
 His isles of light, his silvery streams,
 And gloomy gulfs of mystic shade.

The starry *Lyre!* The starry *Lyre!*
Circling with harmony the pole ;
By Seraph's swept, the notes aspire,
And round Heaven's burning *Altar* roll.

The beaming *Cross!* The beaming *Cross!*
Dread symbol of the sacred tree ;
Bright stars its hallowed form emboss,
And sparkle through infinity.

Mysterious ones ! Mysterious ones !
Crowd on the view like spectral gleams ;
Of wandering or of withering suns,
Or unformed systems' infant beams.

Each glowing gem ! Each glowing gem !
Which radiates in the stellar train ;
All speak *His* hand that rolleth them,
Along the vast cerulean plain.

Amazing span ! Amazing span !
Oh ! the vast temple of the skies ;
Who shall its deep foundation scan,
Or to its top-most star arise.

On Seraph's wings ! On Seraph's wings !
Through vast Creation's fields to roam ;
My soul exulting thither springs,
And finds the Universe, its home.

But Fancy fails ! But Fancy fails !
Though borne by Science deep and high ;
The mortal clog of clay prevails,—
Heaven's mysteries, who would learn—must die.
John Theodore Barker.

A TABLE
Of the Sun's rising and setting, Equation of Time, Transits and Meridional Altitudes of the Planets.

DECEMBER.	SUN		Equation of Time subt. from eqpt. time	MERCURY.		VENUS.		MARS.		JUPITER.		SATURN.		URANUS.	
	rises.	sets.		Trans.	Alt.	Trans.	Alt.	Trans.	Alt.	Trans.	Alt.	Trans.	Alt.	Trans.	Alt.
Day. 1st, Thursday..	h. m. 7 56	h. m. 4 4	m. s. 10 54	h. m. 0 42a	° ' " 13 42	h. m. 9 0m	° ' " 31 23	h. m. 10 26m	° ' " 22 13	h. m. 4 50a	° ' " 21 51	h. m. 6 35m	° ' " 46 16	h. m. 4 27a	° ' " 20 29
7th, Wednesday	8 23	58	8 29	0 57	12 54	8 55	29 54	10 16	21 1	4 28	22 9	6 10	46 12	4 2	20 32
13th, Tuesday..	8 53	55	5 45	1 11	12 58	8 51	28 14	10 6	19 54	4 6	22 29	5 45	46 10	3 37	20 36
19th, Monday..	8 83	52	2 51 add	1 22	13 55	8 48	26 29	9 57	18 52	3 44	22 50	5 19	46 9	3 12	20 40
25th, Sunday ..	8 83	52	0 8	1 26	15 39	8 46	24 44	9 48	17 55	3 22	23 13	4 52	46 9	2 47	20 45

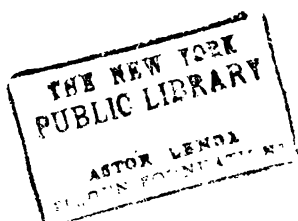
PART III.

NATURALIST'S CALENDAR.



Let others through the crowded walk,
Gay Pleasure's form pursue ;
Which, though it still their effort baulk,
They still with hope pursue !
Nor crowded hall, nor splendid feast,
Nor gems, nor rich attire,
Yield half the rapture to the breast
That Nature's charms inspire !

J. O'LEARY.



THE SEASONS.

BY JOHN BIRD.

'Tis merry, 'tis merry, in smiling Spring,
To gather the fragrant May,
When the blithe young birds on the green boughs sing,
And the lambs in the pasture play;
And flowers look out from their circling leaves,
To allure the wandering bee;—
Oh! happy then is the hand that weaves,
Sweet mother, a wreath for thee!

'Tis merry, 'tis merry, in Summer hour,
When the skies are all too bright,
To chase the fawn through the clustering bow'r,
That stays his frolic flight;
Or with fearless breast to brave the stream,
Where health and sport are won:
Alas! that ever youth's fairy dream
Should glide as fleetly on!

'Tis merry, 'tis merry, in Autumn tide,
The leaser's toil to share;
Or from bending boughs the golden pride
Of the bounteous year to year.
Yet, oh! be sure, that as fruit will fall,
And the ear give out its grain,
Life's harvest tide none can e'er recall,
If its hour shall pass in vain!

'Tis merry, 'tis merry, at Christmas time,
When logs in the chimney blaze,
And the board is heaped with the Winter's prime,
The long loud laugh to raise.
Yet when friends are kindest, each feeling heart
The friendless will hope to cheer,
And of Heaven's rich store give forth a part,
To hallow the closing year.

Juvenile Forget-me-not, 1831.

JANUARY.

Withering and keen the winter comes,
While comfort flies to close-shut rooms,
And sees the snow in feathers pass
Winnowing by the window glass ;
While unfelt tempests howl and beat
Above his head in chimney seat.

Clare.

THIS is usually the coldest month of the year, and that of 1830, was one of extreme severity. According to Mr. Adams's Meteorological Report, in the Literary Gazette, it appears that the low degree at which the mercury stood on the morning of the 18th instant, had not been equalled since the 15th of January, 1820, when the thermometer was 4 degrees lower, viz. : 31 degrees below the freezing point, or 1 degree above Zero : the severity of the weather at that period was generally felt. A letter from Moss, dated January 7th, 1830, says : " The winter, in Norway, is very severe ; Christiania Fiord, which is rarely frozen, is now so strongly covered with ice, that the people travel in safety, from the eastern to the western side of the country, in sledges. It is expected that the Skage Raket will soon be sufficiently covered with ice, that we may drive from Norway to Denmark ! We have only one

instance on record of the latter having occurred. Swedish history informs us, that Gustav Adolph, with his whole army, crossed the ice to Denmark. The average depth of snow is six feet, and the cold varying from 18 to 20 degrees below the freezing point, according to our scale of Reaumur.*

The lowest degree at which the thermometer has been noticed, in the Meteorological Diary, kept at Edmonton, says Mr. Adams, occurred on the 25th of December, 1796, when it was $6^{\circ} 5'$ below zero, or $38^{\circ} 5'$ below the freezing point; and it is supposed the severity of the frost exceeded any thing ever before known in this kingdom. Many were frozen to death. The low state of the thermometer in the preceding year, on the 25th of January, is also worthy of remark, when it was 1° below zero, or 30° below the freezing point.

A letter from Vienna, dated January 16th, 1830, states that great misery prevailed there in consequence of the intensity of the cold; and many of the lower orders being unable to obtain provisions, owing to their scarcity, died from starvation.

A most unusual occurrence, during this frost, was Mount Vesuvius being covered with snow for ten days, during which time, the column of smoke from its crater, which usually serves the Neapolitans as a weather cock, entirely ceased to issue, while not an explosion was heard from the mountain.

A correspondent says: "The severity of the present winter will be memorable in the annals of the seasons.

* That is from 9 to 13 below Zero, according to Fahrenheit's scale.

In the course of one week we have experienced all the alterations of winter weather—intense frost, deep snow, heavy rain, and rapid thaw. The snow, which fell on the 19th of January, was drifted by the North-easterly wind into deep masses in various parts of the public roads, putting a stop to the passage of carriages. In the low grounds of Wiltshire, the snow accumulated in some places to the depth of 15 or 16 feet. The snow, upon Mendip, has been in many places from 16 to 20 feet deep. Upwards of 20 waggons and carts were completely blocked up near Oakhill, and so covered with the snow, that only a little of the top of one of the waggons was visible. Fifty labourers were employed in clearing away the snow, and the road was at length rendered in some degree passable. Since what is termed “the great frost of 1814,” we have not experienced so long a continuance of cold weather, nor has travelling been so much impeded.”

Jan. 10.—The ground covered with snow, the pools with ice, and hedges leafless, and patched here and there with a mantle of white, present a cheerless, dreary void; no insects are animating the air, and all our songsters are silent and away; a few miserable thrushes are hopping on the ditch bank, swept bare by the wind; and the robin puffing out his feathers, and contracting his neck into his body, is peeping, with his fine bright eyes, into the windows from the cypress boughs. A few evergreens are waving their sprays, and glittering in the light, yet making but poor compensation for the variety, the flutter, the verdure of our summer. Though we have little natural beauty to note, or to record, we are not left without a testimony of an over-ruling Power; and,

however sad and melancholy things may appear at the first view, yet a more steady observation will manifest to us a providing Providence and mercy. Frost and snow are but cheerless objects for contemplation, yet I would add a reflection in my Journal of our passing events, or rather recall from memory the truth, that science has made known to us, revived by the sight of that frozen pool. There is one universal body, inherent in every known substance in nature, latent heat, which chemists have agreed to call "caloric." By artificial means, bodies may be deprived of certain portions of it; and then the substance most usually contracts, and increases in weight. Water is an exception to this; for in losing a part of its heat, the cause of its fluidity, and becoming ice it expands, and is rendered lighter, by enclosing, during the operation, more or less of atmospheric air; consequently it swims, covering the surface. To this very simple circumstance, ice floating and not sinking, are the banks and vicinities of all the rivers, lakes, pools, or great bodies of water in northern Europe, Asia, and America, rendered habitable, and what are the most fertile and peopled, would be the most steril and abandoned, were it not for this law of nature. Had ice been so heavy as to sink in water, the surface, on freezing, would have fallen to the bottom, and a fresh surface would be presented for congelation; this would then descend in its turn, and unite with the other; and thus, during a hard frost, successive surfaces would be presented, and fall to the bottom, as long as the frost or any fluid remained. By this means the whole body of the water would become a dense concretion of ice: its in-

habitants would not only perish, but the indurated mass would resist the influence of the sun of any summer to thaw it, and continue congealed throughout the year, chilling the earth in its neighbourhood, and the winds that passed over it, preventing the growth of vegetation in the former, or blighting and destroying it by the influence of the latter.—*Journal of a Naturalist.*

During this month larks congregate and fly to the warm stubble for shelter, the nuthatch is heard, the house-sparrow chirps, skylarks, and titlarks resort to watered meadows for food, the thrush, the missle-thrush, and the hedge-sparrow begin their songs; the titmouse pulls straws out of the thatch in search of insects; and rooks resort to their nest-trees. Towards the end of the month, when the day will be found to begin lengthening, the robin, the wren, and the blackbird will begin to be heard singing.

In the midst of Winter, some flowers are sure to be seen; especially if in a light, warm soil, and with a south aspect.

Though storms may rage and skies may lower,
We're sure to see the grounzel in flower.

The rosemary, the red dead nettle, and the bears foot, begin to flower. The crocus appears above ground, and the snowdrop and daisy may be expected to bloom.

On waste and woodland, rock and plain,
Its humble buds unheeded rise;
The rose has but a summer reign;
The *daisy* never dies.

J. Montgomery.

LINES WRITTEN DURING AN INTENSE FOG, ON
SUNDAY, JANUARY 18th, 1829.

BY THE VENERABLE ARCHDEACON BUTLER.

Darkness upon the land ; Midnight at noon !
Day without sunshine ! Night without a moon !
Rayless eclipse ! The tribute of the sky,
When HE, the Lord of Nature, deigned to die !
A starless void ! A deep and awful gloom,
Fraught with strange fears, and herald of the tomb.

Such once before, on hardened Pharoah lay,
And filled his royal Memphis with dismay.
Hid was the Sun : the stars refused their light,
And Egypt's noontide blaze was quenched in night.
" Lights in the hall ! lights to the regal chair !"
But all was gloom and desolation there,
A palpable obscure, a gathering cloud
Wrapped Prince and people in its murky shroud.
While Israel's sons, from fear and darkness free,
Walked forth in light, confiding. Lord, in Thee !
O ! through this vale of sorrow as we stray,
Do Thou preserve and lead us on our way.
Guide Thou our feet till death's dark hour is past,
And make us, Lord, thy sons of light at last !

Winter's Wreath, 1831.

SNOW.

See ! see ! I'm falling, I'm falling !
Through the realms of the clear blue air ;
I'm leaving my bright pure dwelling,
I shall fall on your world of care !
Shall I sink in the fathomless ocean,
Or rest on the top of the hill ?
Shall I sleep on the breast of the valley,
Or melt in the murmuring rill ?

The world ! it looked dark, it seemed dreary,
When I was high up in the air ;
But now I am nearer it brightens,
Its hills and its mountains are fair ;
A cloud ! its dim bosom receives me !
What through its dull mist do I see ?
Proud city ! I'll shun thy dark border ;
I wish not to fall amidst thee.

Kind Wind ! waft me farther, I pray you,
To the breast of yon flowing tide ;
Let me fall on its soft silver bosom,
And with its bright waters I'll glide ;
Then I'll float to the far green ocean,
Where the Zephyr and whirlwind fly,
Till the sunbeam shall be my lover,
And I go to my own blue sky.

E. W. T.

FRIENDSHIP AND LOVE.

BY WILLIAM LEGGETT.

The birds, when winter shades the sky,
Fly o'er the seas away,
Where laughing isles in sunshine lie,
And summer breezes play.
And thus the friends, that flutter near
While fortune's sun is warm,
Are startled if a cloud appear,
And fly before the storm.

But when from winter's howling plains
Each other warbler's past,
The little snow-bird still remains,
And chirrup amidst the blast.
Love, like that bird, when friendship's throng
With fortune's sun depart,
Still lingers with its cheerful song,
And nestles on the heart.

F E B R U A R Y.

Already now the snowdrop dares appear,
The first pale blossom of th' unripen'd year ;
As Flora's breath by some transforming power,
Had chang'd an icicle into a flower.
Its name and hue the scentless plant retains,
And winter lingers in its icy veins.

Mrs. Barbauld.

WINTER is called a dull season ; and to the sensations of some, the enjoyments of others ; and, perhaps, to the vision of all ; it is a most cheerless period. This is so universally felt, that we always associate the idea of pleasure with the return of spring : whatever our occupations or employments may be, though its sleety storms and piercing winds may at times chill the very current in our veins, yet we consider it as an harbinger of pleasureable hours and grateful pursuits. We commence our undertakings, or defer them till spring. The hopes or prospects of the coming year, are principally established in spring : and we trust that the delicate health of the blossoms round our hearths, which has faded in the chilling airs of winter, may be restored by the mild influence of that season. Yet winter must be considered as the time in which Nature is most busily employed ; silent in her secret mansions, she is now preparing and

compounding the verdure, the flowers, the nutriment of spring; and all the fruits and glorious profusions of our summer year, are only the advance of what has been ordained and fabricated in these dull months. All these advances require Omnipotent wisdom and power to perfect; but perhaps a more exalted degree of wisdom and power has been requisite to call them into a state of being from nothing.

The branch of that old pear tree now extended before me is denuded and bare, presenting no object of curiosity or of pleasure; but, had we the faculty to detect, and power to observe, what was going forward in its secret vessels, beneath its rugged, unsightly covering, what wonder and admiration would it create!—the materials manufacturing there for its leaf and its bark; for the petals and parts of its flowers; the tubes and machinery that concoct the juices, molify the fluids, and furnish the substance of the fruits, with multitudes of other unknown operations and contrivances, too delicate and mysterious to be seen, or even comprehended, by the blindness, the defectibility of our nature—things of which we have no information, being beyond the range of any of the works or the employments of mankind. We may gather our pear; be pleased with its form or its flavour; we may magnify its vessels, analyze its fluids, yet be no more sensible of its elaborate formation, and the multiplicity of its influences and operations requisite to conduct it to our use, than a wandering native of a polar clime could be of the infinite number of processes that are necessary to furnish a loaf of bread, from ploughing the soil to drawing from the oven. This is but an isolated instance, amidst thousands of others

more complicated still. How utterly inconceivable, then, are the labours, the contrivances, the combinations, that are going forward and accomplishing in this our dull season of the year, in that host of nature's productions with which, shortly, we shall every where be surrounded.

It is a period like this, where one comfortless hue predominates over all things—

Where all is sky, and a white wilderness ;
And, here and there, a solitary pine,
Its branches bending with a weight of woe,—

that we fully perceive the beauty, the cheerfulness, of the colours of nature ; which, like so many other things of this life, we do not duly appreciate, until we are deprived of them.—*Journal of a Naturalist.*

The winter of 1830 was an exceedingly severe one, but not so intense as that of 1816, as appears by a journal kept by the Rev. Mr. Lathbury, Rector of Livermore, in Suffolk. On the morning of the 10th of February of that year, the cold, as indicated by several thermometers, was such that the quicksilver fell to *five* degrees below Zero, twelve degrees lower than the point at which one part of spirits of wine and three of brandy will freeze. The thermometers, during the whole of that day, as well as on the two preceding ones, varied each evening and morning from between twenty-six to thirty degrees below the freezing point. The frost here recorded (1816) is believed to have been the severest ever felt in our latitude: it exceeded in duration, as well as in degree, that of January 24th, 1796; and that of 1814, when the quicksilver was down as low as two degrees and a half below Zero.

The thristle, the missal, the blackbird, the wren, and the robin, are sure to be heard in full song this month, even though the weather be frosty. As soon as the weather begins to be open and mild many birds begin getting into song; particularly the skylark, which may be heard in the morning. Ravens and rooks are very busy making and repairing their nests:

On an ancient oak or elm, whose topmost boughs
Begin to fail, the Raven's twig-formed house
Is built; and many a year the self-same tree
The aged solitary pair frequent.
But distant is their range; for oft at morn
They take their flight, and not till twilight grey
Their slow returning cry hoarse meets the ear.

Graham.

This month affords but few flowers; the snowdrop is the principal one. Various species of the crocus, however, are beginning to blow; especially if the weather is mild.

TO THE SNOW-DROP.

Hail! little nursling of the storm,
Pure innocence bespeaks thy form:
You brave with lily bosom bare,
The piercing cold of Winter's air.
'Tis strange that front so chaste and pure,
Can thus the pit'less storm endure:
Amid the whirlwind loud and dire,
Can rear the head and not expire.

Flow'ret! of Winter's storms the child,
You live in lonely woodlands wild;
To thee that hue so pure was given,
As a sacred boon from Heaven!
Maidens in the Spring-tide hour,
Love to seek thee! peerless flower,

It well befits the virtuous fair,
 With thee their innocence to share.
 Nymphs ! be not of that gem beguil'd :
 Be chaste as th' Snow-drop of the wild !

T. N.

TO A WOUNDED SINGING BIRD.

BY BARRY CORNWALL.

Poor singer ! hath the fowler's gun,
 Or the sharp winter, done thee harm ?
 We'll lay thee gently in the sun,
 And breathe on thee, and keep thee warm ;
 Perhaps some human kindness still
 May make amends for human ill.

We'll take thee in, and nurse thee well,
 And save thee from the winter wild,
 Till summer fall on field and fell,
 And thou shalt be our feathered child ;
 And tell us all thy pain and wrong
 When thou again cans't speak in song.

Fear not, nor tremble, little bird ;—
 We'll use thee kindly now,
 And sure there's in a friendly word
 An accent even *thou* should'st know ;
 For kindness which the heart doth teach,
 Disdaineth all peculiar speech.

'Tis common to the bird, and brute,
 To fallen man, to angel bright,
 And sweeter 'tis than lonely lute
 Heard in the air at night,—
 Divine and universal tongue,
 Whether by birds or spirit sung !

A a 2

But hark ! is that a sound we hear
Come chirping from its throat,—
Faint—short—but weak, and very clear,
And like a little grateful note ?
Another ! ah—look where it lies,
It shivers—gasps—is still,—it dies !

'Tis dead,—'tis dead ! and all our care
Is useless. Now, in vain
The mother's woe doth pierce the air,
Calling her nestling bird again !
All's vain :—the singer's heart is cold,
Its eye is dim,—its fortune told !

New Year's Gift.

WINTER CHANGES.

BY MARIA JANE JEWSBURY.

I am come back to my bower,
But it is not as of yore—
Withered every glowing flower,
And the leaves are green no more ;
Winter winds are sighing,
Where summer breezes strayed ;
Winter mists are lying,
Where the sunbeams played ;
Hope, the spirit that gladdens,
Flees upon the blast ;
Memory, that but saddens,
Lingers to the last,
Telling of the roses,
Telling of the joys,
That life in spring discloses,
Its waning time destroys.

I am come back to my bower,
'Tis precious as of yore,
Though withered every flower,
And the leaves are green no more ;

Though mute the lark and linnet,
And still the humming bee,
Affection dwells within it,
A summer world to me.
Though leaf and blossom perish,
And zephyrs pass away.
The glory that I cherish
Will never so decay :—
Hearts to whom no weather
Change or blight can bring,
These love on together,
In winter as in Spring.



M A R C H.

Spring
Comes and rains beauty on the kindling boughs
Round hall and hamlet.

Mrs. Hemans.

THIS is the month in which the Spring commences her all-creative and omnipotent reign—in which the elemental powers of Nature are more conspicuous in producing the principles of eternity into action, and by which every generation is carried forward to periods of varied consequence. When the sun enters Aries, every sign of the Zodiac is in apparent succession. Artists and birds,—travellers and flowers—mariners and agriculturists, gamekeepers and manufacturers, avail themselves of the thrifty and growing day. About this time, Chaucer's Canterbury Pilgrims set off from the "Tabard," in the Borough, at the "Watering of St. Thomas," began drawing lots to decide who should be the first to tell a "right marrowy Tale." The lot did not fall upon Jonas as in Scripture, but the Knight, than whom a more proper person could not be found in the train to shew his gallantry to the Lady Nun and the Priestess, by a recital of interesting adventures in foreign lands. Spenser was not a less ardent anticipator and encourager of Spring. His "Faery Queen" is redolent of the

sweetness, both in song and poetic imagery, which never dies. The inspiration which his description effects, as he carries the narration of objects lovely, or not, in the portraiture of the human passions and metaphysical delineations, is such as to convey the most passionate love of this season both of the human heart and nature. Many of Shakespeare's finest touches, in his dramatic, and narrative, and fugitive pieces, are the emanations of the very spirit and exuberance—the very appliance and glory of an immortality, elicited by the spring season stirring in his nature, an essence of the fadeless spring, rare, but enduring and ever beautiful. Cowley's finest thoughts, and his most incidental passages, are the produce of spring meditations, and live in the heart as seeds of prolific truth. Nor was Milton less enamoured of the flowery lawn, the plat of rising ground and beechen shade. Nothing of the Pastoral character is enjoyed without a true taste for those new arrivals in the spring. Not to mention the Latins and Greeks, our national poets have followed each other, in giving hope, and faith, and love, to encourage all succeeding people in a proper estimate of this season. Whether Shenstone or Gray, Thomson or Crabbe,—Burns, Ramsay, or Bloomfield—Rogers, Camphell, or Wiffen. The unioned spirit of reciprocal feeling pervades every page, and the very senator, who is not expected to derive pleasure from common sources or every day scenes, is attracted to his duties by the commencement of spring. The Lectures of medical men are now more sappy, and every student, in every branch of art and science, rises from his wintry-gotten apathies, and feeling new energies, shows forth new powers, practical and illustrative. The

sun is the source, and its Divine Author the regulator of these operations.

——Come thou expressive Spring! exalt his praise.

J. R. P.

This month sets in with cold and keen winds, but a clear and healthy air. The trees, which were last month budding, now put forth their leaves. A late Naturalist says: "Before the arrival of the nightingale, or at least before he begins to sing, the owl, particularly it is said, before rain, performs a nightly serenade—such as it is,—dreary, ominous; but not without poetical association, when we recollect the throne assigned her by Gray, in the 'ivy-mantled tower.' But the truth is, the owl only utters her cry while on the wing. It is a fact, worthy of remark in the natural history of the owl, that, like the cat, it is very fond of fish, though it seems but ill-adapted by nature for capturing them. That it does so, however, there can be no doubt, as owls have been detected in the very act of robbing fish-ponds, and they frequently feed their young with fish."

This is a busy month in the farm yard; one of the most pleasing objects of which is, the chickens that now begin to run about. The formation of the chick in the egg is extremely curious. Scarcely has the hen sat upon the eggs twelve hours, before some lineaments of the head and body of the chick are discernable in the embryo; at the end of the second day, the heart begins to beat, but no blood is to be seen. In forty-eight hours we may distinguish two vesicles with blood, the pulsation of which is evident; one of them is the left ventricle, the other, the root of the great artery; soon after one of auricles of the heart is perceptible, in which pulsation





Drawn by J. Russell R.A.

Engraved by S. Freeman

Spring.
WIND AND GENTLENESS.

THE NEW YORK
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ASTOR LENOX
T-1

may be remarked as well as in the ventricle. The wings may be distinguished early, and on the head two globules for the brain, one for the beak, and two others for the front and hind part of the head. Towards the end of the fourth day, the two auricles, now distinctly visible, approach nearer the heart than they did before. About the fifth day, the liver may be perceived; at the end of 138 hours, the lungs and stomach become visible; and in a few hours more, the intestines, veins, and upper jaw. On the seventh day, the brain begins to assume a more consistent form. 190 hours after incubation, the beak opens, and flesh appears on the breast. In 210, the ribs are formed, and the gall bladder is visible. The bill, in a few hours more, is seen of a green colour, and if the chick be separated from its coverings, it will be seen to move. The feathers begin to shoot towards the 240th hour, and at the same time the skull becomes cartilaginous; in 24 hours more, the eyes appear; at the 288th, the ribs are perfected; and at the 331st, the lungs, the stomach, and the breast, assume their natural appearance. On the eighteenth day of incubation, the first faint piping of the chick is heard. It then continually increases in size and in strength till it emerges from its prison.

The most timid bird, during the period of sitting, or when rearing its nestlings, seems to have its nature changed: the common hen, however timid she may be on other occasions, will carelessly fly out at the dog, or assail that terror of the poultry tribe, the kite, when encompassed by her beloved brood; and many birds which are otherwise remarkably shy, will suffer themselves to be lifted off their eggs when sitting. Nature

however teaches the hen to drive her young ones from her side when they become capable of providing for themselves, in order that she may again recover sufficient vigour to rear a second brood.

The sweet violet sheds its delicious perfumes. The leaves of honeysuckles are nearly expanded in our gardens, the buds of the cherry-tree, the peach, the nectarine, the apricot, and the almond are fully opened in this month. The buds of the hawthorn and of the larch tree begin to open ; and the tansy emerges out of the ground ; ivy-berries are ripe, the daffodil in moist thickets, the rush and the spurge-laurel found in woods, are now in bloom. The common whitlow grass on old walls ; the yellow alpine whitlow grass on maritime rocks ; and the mountain pepper-wort among limestone rocks, flower in this month.

LINES ON SPRING.

Come fairest portion of the new-born year,
Winter's dark gloom and nature's aspect cheer,
Her glowing hues and smiles again restore,
And let not man her transient loss deplore ;
But to the giver of these blooming days,
Pour forth the grateful anthem of thy praise,—
Who crowns each circling season with delight,
To form its beauty for our mortal sight.
With graceful softness blends each varied hue,
And life's returning charms creates anew ;
In ev'ry infant bud and opening flower,
We trace the marks of his Almighty power :
In each renewing prospect of the year,
His goodness, might, and majesty appear,
Like the first dawn of life's enchanting spring,
When cares, nor griefs, the growing blossom sting.

Brought to perfection by the ripening sun,
His ardor forms what it had first begun ;
Alas ! how soon to fade at death's command,
By the chill grasp of winter's icy hand :—
Its beauteous leaves in scattered fragments lay,
The blighted prospects of a summer's day ;
When thus old age steals on with trembling pace,
And time's dark furrows mark the care-worn face ;
When death appears, the last and only friend,
Our transient joys and blighted hopes to end :
Where now my soul are all those youthful days,
The fleeting pleasures of life's golden rays ?
Alas ! they all are fled !—we are bereft
Of ev'ry comfort—Hope alone is left
To sooth our sick'ning spirits, and to fan
The last bright hope of once despairing man.
And that bright hope transcendant joy will bring
To view, once more another cheering spring :
A spring that reigns in heaven's eternal space,
Form'd for our souls by his almighty grace ;
Where endless years and never ending days,
We'll sing with angels our Creator's praise.

Helen.

SONG FOR SPRING MORNINGS.

BY T. H. BAYLEY.

Oh ! 'tis sad to see the splendour
Of the Summer pass away
When the night is always stealing
Precious moments from the day :
But in Spring each lengthened evening,
Tempts us farther off from home ;
And if Summer *has* more beauty,
All that beauty is to come.

It is thus in manhood's summer,
That the heart too often grieves
Over friends lost prematurely,
Like the fall of blighted leaves;
But life's spring-time is far sweeter,
When each green bud appears,
May expand into a blossom
To enliven future years.

TO A BLIND GOLDFINCH.

BY C. B. S.

'Tis a fond foolish sympathy I feel
With thee, poor sightless sufferer! whose strain
Bewails the cruelty of burning steel,
And life's long darkness torturing more than pain.
I droop like thee; my hopeless spirit pines
Through darkened months, perhaps the germ of years,
E'en more than when these cold and cruel lines
Stunned thought and feeling, till relieved by tears.

Like thee, I feel the light I loved withdrawn,
The gloom oppressing with perpetual weight;
To thee sad memory brings the dewy lawn—
To me the social hours I shared so late;
Captivity and darkness prompt thy song—
As dark an exile bids me idly rhyme:
To each the hours uncounted steal along;
Why should the hopeless watch the flight of time?

Friendship's Offering.

A P R I L.

How beautiful the pastime of the Spring !
Lo ! newly waking from her wintry dream,
She, like a smiling infant, timid plays
On the green margin of this sunny lake,
Fearing, by starts, the little breaking waves
(If riplings rather known by sound than sight,
May haply so be named) that in the grass,
Soon fade in murmuring mirth.

John Wilson.

APRIL has been thus described by John Worlidge, and quoted by Mr. Felton in his admirable pamphlet entitled—*On the Portraits of English Authors on Gardening*:

“ In this month your garden appears in its greatest beauty, the blossoms of the fruit-trees prognosticate the plenty of fruits for all the succeeding summer months, unless prevented by untimely frosts or blights. The bees now buz in every corner of your garden to seek for food ; the birds sing in every bush, and the sweet nightingale tunes her warbling notes in your solitary walks, whilst the other birds are at their rest. The beasts of the woods look out into the plains, and the fishes of the deep sport themselves in the shallow waters. The air is wholesome, and the earth pleasant, beginning now to be cloathed with nature's best array, exceeding all art's glory.

This is the time that whets the wits of several nations to prove their own country to have been the *Garden of Eden*, or the terrestrial paradise, however it appears all the year besides. In case unseasonable weather hinders not, the pleasantness and salubrity of the air now tempts the sound to the free enjoyment of it, rather than to enjoy the pleasures of *Bacchus* in a smoky corner."

During this month, most of the migratory birds return to this country: among these are the swallow, the martin, the swift, the nightingale, the wryneck, the cuckoo, the ring-ousel, the red-start, the yellow wren, the white-throat, the grasshopper, lark, and willow wren.

The migration of birds has been justly considered as one of the most wonderful exhibitions of nature. This migration, which is common to a number of birds, furnishes a striking instance of the powerful instinct impressed by the Creator. Dr. Derham observes two circumstances remarkable in this migration: the first, that these untaught unthinking creatures, should know the proper times for their passage, when to come and when to go; as also, that some should come when others retire. No doubt, the temperature of the air as to heat and cold, and their natural propensity to breed their young, are the great incentives to these creatures to change their habitations. But why should they at all change their habitations? And why is some certain place to be found, in all the terraqueous globe, that, all the year round, can afford them convenient food and habitation? The second remarkable circumstance is, that they should know which way to steer their course and whither to go. What instinct is it that can induce a poor foolish bird to venture over large tracts of land and

sea. If it be said, that by their high ascents into the air, they can see across the seas, yet what shall instruct or persuade them, that another land is more proper for their purpose than this? that Great Britain, for instance, should afford them better accommodation than Egypt, the Canaries, Spain, or any of the other intermediate countries.

The progress of vegetation now proceeds rapidly. Cherry and apple trees show their blossoms. The lilac exhibits its clusters of elegant flowers; the honeysuckle twines its rich green tendrils, and its sweet scented blossoms around the cottage porch, or little bower; and the laburnum appears in graceful profusion. The stock, gilliflower, and the star anemone, are added to the garden flowers. In the meadows, the daisy is still bright; and the cowslip, the crowsfoot, and the harebell, are dotted with it over the green turf.

APRIL.

BY N. P. WILLIS.

I have found violets. April hath come on,
And the cool winds feel softer, and the rain
Falls in the beaded drops of summer time.
You may hear birds at morning, and at eve
The tame dove lingers till the twilight falls,
Cooing upon the eaves, and drawing in
His beautiful bright neck, and from the hills
A murmur, like the hoarseness of the sea,
Tells the release of waters, and the earth
Sends up a pleasant smell, and the dry leaves
Are lifted by the grass—and so I know
That nature, with her delicate ear, hath heard
The dropping of the velvet foot of Spring.
Smell of my violets!—I found them where
The liquid south stole o'er them, on a bank

That lean'd to running water. There's to me
A daintiness about these early flowers
That touches one like poetry. They blow
With such a simple loveliness among
The common herbs of pasture, and breathe out
Their lives so unobtrusively, like hearts
Whose beatings are too gentle for the world.

I love to go in the capricious days
Of April and hunt violets; when the rain
Is in the blue cups trembling, and they nod
So gracefully to the kisses of the wind.
It may be deem'd unmanly, but the wise
Read nature like the manuscript of Heaven,
And call the flowers its poetry. Go out!
Ye spirits of habitual unrest,
And read it when the "fever of the world"
Hath made your hearts impatient, and, if life
Hath yet one spring unpoison'd, it will be
Like a beguiling music to its flow,
And you will no more wonder that I love
To hunt for violets in the April time.

SONNET TO SPRING.

BY D. S. L. AUTHOR OF "THE HARP OF INNISFAIL," ETC.

Fair, o'er the earth the spring-shrubs spread their leaves
Of opening beauty, and the perfumed sky
Smiles, with its lure of softness brilliantly!
Air, earth, sky, ocean, mountain, valley, lives
In fragrance; and the gurgling stream glides still
And mellowly along its flowered bed.
How beautiful is nature!—all, that tread
O'er nature's wide domain of vale and hill.
The brawling stream, that riots in its spray—
The sheeny sky that looks all bright and fair,
More bright than the blue heaven that's shrined there!—
With all the flowers that laugh at past decay!
Oh! beautiful are earth and air, when spring
Waves o'er the world the pinions of its breathing wing!

M A Y.

'Tis the sunny first of May,
She is tripping on the earth,
To the wild bird's joyous lay ;
Fresh flowerets hail her birth,
And with fragrant kisses greet
The coming of her feet.

Atlantic Souvenir.

THE scenery of a May morning is particularly beautiful ; a serene sky, a refreshing fragrance arising from the face of the earth, and the melody of the birds, all combine to render it inexpressibly delightful, to exhilarate the spirits, and call forth a song of grateful adoration.

Early in the month, the latest of the summer birds of passage arrive ; among which are the goatsucker, or fern owl, the spotted flea-catcher, the swift, the sedge bird, and the cuckoo.

Thou monotonous bird ! whom we ne'er wish away,—
Who hears thee not pleas'd at the threshold of May ?
Thy advent reminds us of all that is sweet ;
Which Nature benignant, now lays at our feet ;—
Sweet flowers—sweet meadows—sweet birds, and their loves
Sweet sunshining mornings, and sweet shady groves ;—
Sweet smiles of the maiden—Sweet looks of the youth,
And sweet asseverations, too, prompted by truth ;
Sweet promise of plenty throughout the rich dale ;
And sweet the bees' humming in meadow and vale ;

B b

Of the Summer's approach—of the presence of Spring,
For ever sweet Cuckoo ! continue to sing.

Oh, who then, dear bird ! could e'er wish thee away ?

Who hears thee not pleas'd at the threshold of May ?

Ornithologia, by J. Jennings.

The great diversity in character in birds, the short movements, and almost local sphere of action in some, and the ceaseless transition of others ; the lonely retirement of a part, and the fearless domestication of others with man, must commonly be remarked by many ; and the chief motive which probably influences much of this variety of deportment may arise from the nature of the food on which they subsist. There is one of these creatures with which we are all acquainted in his season, whose rambling nature and restless flight are always subjects of admiration,—the swift (*hirundo apus*), which visits us about the beginning of May, and soon after, as, having no time to lose, commences preparation for its brood ; that operation over, they again depart, remaining with us about fourteen or fifteen weeks : and all this period seems passed in hurry and precipitation, in unceasing action on the wing, from early morning till hidden by the shades of night, not calmly sailing on his way, but rushing and struggling through the air with unremitting haste ; and such is their muscular power, violent as these exertions are, they present no diminution of celerity or lassitude of body—they seem the destined couriers of the sky, coursing for life. But these laborious progressions of the swift do not proceed from the mere pleasure resulting from a life of action ; they are rendered necessary by the vagrant habits of his prey, as we generally observe him occupied in pursuit or cap-

turing his victim: at one moment, perhaps, circling round us like the head of a barbed arrow, snatching up some hatch of creatures just risen from the soil; that effected, away he goes like the passing breeze, now skimming with noiseless wing the surface of the pool, then ranging high in the azure of the air.—*Journal of a Naturalist.*

Towards the end of the month, if a blight does not occur, the treasures of summer are almost all laid open. The grass is in its greenest beauty; the young corn has covered the more naked fields; the hedges are powdered with the snowy and sweet-scented blossoms of the hawthorn, as beautiful as myrtle-flowers; the orchard gives us trees and the most lovely flowers at once; and the hedge-banks, woods, and meadows, are sprinkled in profusion with the cowslip, the wood-roof, the orchis, the blue germander, the white anemone, the lily of the valley, the marsh-marygold, and the children's favorite, daisies and buttercups, whose colors start in an instant to our mind. The dragon-fly carries his long purple shining body along the air; the butterflies enjoy their merry day; the bees send out their colonies; the birds sing with unwearied love, while their partners are sitting; the later birds of passage arrive; the cattle enjoy the ripe and juicy herbage, and overflow with milk; most of the trees complete their foliage, filling the landscape with clumps and crowning woods that "bosom" the village steeples; the distance echoes with the cheerful bark of the dog; the ladies are abroad in their spring dresses; the farmer does little, but leisurely weed his garden, and enjoy the sight of his flowering industry; the sun stops long, and begins to let us feel him warmly;

and when the vital sparkle of the day is over, in sight and sound, the nightingale still continues to tell us its joy; the moon seems to be watching us, as a mother does her sleeping child; and the little glow-worm lights up her trusting lamp, to show her lover where she is.—
Leigh Hunt.

TO E. L. B. ON MAY MORNING.

BY JOHN CLARE.

“ Sit under the May-bush at the head of the table.”—DARLEY.

Lady, 'tis thy desire to move
Far from the world's ungentle throng:
Lady, 'tis thy delight to love
The muses, and the heirs of song:
Nor taste alone is thine to praise,
For thou canst touch the minstrel wire,
And, while thou'rt praising others' lays,
Wake notes that any may admire:
Forgive, if I, in friendship's way,
Do offer thee a wreath of May.

I greet thee with no gaudy flowers,
For thou art not to fashions prone,
But rather lov'dst the woodland bowers,
Where Nature's beauties charm alone.
The Passion-flower and Ceres fine
By wealth and pride are reared alone,
Yet flowers more sweet, nor less divine,
Spring's humbler fields and forest own,
To every hand and bosom given,
And nourished by the dews of heaven.

The little Violet's bloom I weave
In wreaths, I'm fain that thou should'st prize,
Although it comes at Winter's eve,
And often in the tempest dies.

The Primrose, too, a doubtful dream
Of what precarious Spring would be,
Yet would I not the type should seem
Aught fancy feigns, resembling thee,
And thus belie thy gentle heart,
Where worldly coldness hath no part.

Here, too, are boughs of opening May,
And Lillies of the valley fair,
Yet not with idle praise to say
They're types of what are sweet and fair :
I crompt one from the pasture hedge,
The others from the forest dell,
And thou hast given the muses pledge
Such scenes delight thy bosom well ;
'Tis not thy person wakes my lays,
Thy heart alone I mean to praise.

Forgive me, though I flatter not,
Youth's beauties it were thine to wear,
Hath been by ripper years forgot,
Though thou hast had a happy share,
And I might praise full many a grace
That lives and lingers yet behind ;
But they, like flowers, shall change their place :
Not so the beauties of the mind ;
So I have Ivy placed between,
To prove that worth is ever green.

The little blue Forget-me-not
Comes too on Friendship's gentle plea,
Spring's messenger in every spot,
Smiling on all, remember me :
But gaudy Tulips find no place
In garlands friendship would bestow,
Yet here the Cowslip shows its face,
Prized for its sweetness more than show :
Emblems to pride and pomp inclined
Would but offend a modest mind.

I would not on May's garland sing
The Laurel to the muse and thee,
For fashion's praise—a common thing
Hath made of that once sacred tree ;
And, trust me, many Laurels wear,
That never grew on Parnass' hill,
Yet dare, and speed 'tis thine to heir
The muse's Laurels, if ye will :
Let flattery think her wreaths divine,
Merit by its own worth will shine.

O, when I view the glorious best
Of poets to my country born,
Though sorrow was the lot of most,
And many shared the sneers of scorn,
That, now by time and talent tried,
Give life to fame's eternal sun :
O, when I mark the glorious pride,
That England from her bards hath won,
E'en I, the meanest of the throng,
Warm into ecstasy and song.

The highest gifts each kingdom claims
Are minstrel's on the muse's throne,
And bards, who've won the richest fames,
'Tis England's noblest pride to own.
Shakspeares and Miltons, they that heir
The fames immortal o'er decay,
And Scotts and Byrons, born to wear
The honours of a later day,
That joins to present, past renown,
And sings, eternity to crown.

These, from proud Laurels never won
Their fames and honours more divine,
They, like the grand eternal sun,
Confer their glories where they shine :

The Laurel were a common bough,
Had it not decked a poet's crown,
And even weeds, so common now,
Placed there, would augur like renown,
Bloom satellites in glory's way,
Proud as the Laurel and the Bay.

Lady, and thou hast chosen well
To give the muses thy regard :
There, taste from pleasure bears the bell ;
There, feeling finds its own reward,
Though genius often, while it makes
Life's millions happy with her songs,
From Sorrow's cup her portion takes,
And struggles under bitterest wrongs :
To cares of life and song—unknown ;
The poet's fame be thine alone.

May 1, 1830.

THE SPRING JOURNEY.

BY BISHOP HEBER.

Oh green was the corn as I rode on my way,
And bright was the dews on the blossoms of May,
And dark was the Sycamore's shade to behold,
And the Oak's tender leaf was of emerald and gold.

The thrush from his holly, the lark from his cloud,
Their chorus of rapture sung jovial and loud :
From the soft vernal sky to the soft grassy ground,
There was beauty above me, beneath and around.

The mild southern breeze brought a shower from the hill,
And yet, though it left me all dripping and chill,
I felt a new pleasure, as onwards I sped,
To gaze where the rainbow gleam'd broad over head.

Oh, such be life's journey, and such be our skill,
To lose in its blessings the sense of its ill !
Through sunshine and shower may our progress be even,
And our tears add a charm to the prospects of Heaven !

J U N E.

—◆—

'Twas a rich night in June. The air was all
Fragrance and balm, and the wet leaves were stirred
By the soft fingers of the southern wind,
And caught the light capriciously like wings,
Haunting the greenwood with a silvery sheen.
The stars might not be numbered, and the moon,
Exceeding beautiful, went up to heaven,
And took her place in silence, and a hush,
Like a deep sabbath of the night, came down
And rested upon nature. *N. P. Willis.*

As in the Spring, we feel the freshness of young existence, and, while every thing is awakening into life around us, involuntarily wonder and wish to know what may be the nature of that singular principle which, after having lain as still as though it had been dead for a season, is beginning to mould creation into so many forms, and elaborate out of the same common stone, and by the agency of the same stimulating sun, plants and animals in all their tribes, amounting, probably, in the whole, in Britain and the surrounding sea, to more than twenty thousand species, and certainly to more than twenty thousand millions of individuals, in the course of one season; so, in the summer, when the catalogue seems full, and the earth, the air, and the waters are literally

alive,—when, before we have had time to give one object the slightest attention, another comes in to claim the preference, we feel disposed to throw ourselves under the shade, suspend our inquiry, and devote the whole of our time to admiration.

And the summer is so transcendently rich in being and action, that if it were to come upon us all at once, it would be almost too much for the mind. It comes, as we have said, more rapidly in those regions where the winter holds its dominion for the greater part of the year; and those who have noted the conduct of the people there, have seen that the breasts of men are thawed and warmed as well as the fields and the flowers: that the peasantry of Lapland sing in chorus with the birds; and that when the Esquimaux quit their habitations of ice, and their messes of seal's fat, and betake themselves to the cranberry swamps, and pine forests, there they feel a blithness and hold a jubilee. And amid all the arts, the elegances, the information, of the most polished and happy artificial life, there is a feeling of restraint when the summer comes, a wish to leave those inanimate fabrications of man, which, however curious or costly they may be, the same energies that are giving life and growth to the whole rural world, are mouldering and consuming. That which is a fact with the rest of living nature, may always be in some manner found as a feeling with man; he wishes to hybernate in the cold months, but to have "free range" when they are gone; but fashion stifles the voice of nature, and rules that the first day for partridge shooting should also be the first of the summer.—*British Naturalist*.

During no portion of the day can the general opera-

tions of nature be more satisfactorily observed than in the early morning. Rosy June—the very thought of an early summer's morning in the country, like enchantment, gives action to the current of our blood, and seems to breathe through our veins a stream of health and enjoyment! All things appear fresh and unsoiled; the little birds, animated and grateful, are frisking about the sprays; others proceeding to their morning's meal, or occupied in the callings of their nature, give utterance by every variety of voice to the pleasures that they feel; the world has not yet called us, and with faculties unworn, we unite with them, partake of this general hilarity and joy, feel disposed to be happy, and enjoy the blessings around us: the very air itself, as yet uninhaled by any, circulates about us replete with vitality, conveying more than its usual portion of sustenance and health, “and man goeth forth unto his labour.” Night-feeding creatures, feeling the freshness of light, and the coming day, are all upon the move, retiring from danger and observation; and we can note them now unhidden in their lairs, unconcealed beneath the foliage in the hedge the very vegetation, bathing in dew and moisture, full fed, partakes of this early morning joy and health, and every creeping thing is refreshed and satisfied. As day advances, it changes all; and of these happy beings of the early hour, part are away, and we must seek them; others are oppressed, silent, listless; the vegetable, no longer lucid with dew, and despoiled of all the little gems that glittered from every serrature of its leaf, seems pensive at the loss. When blessed with health, having peace, innocence, and content, as inmates of the mind, perhaps the most enjoyable hours of life may be





Summer.

STORM IN HAY HARVEST.



Faint, illegible handwritten text, possibly a signature or date.

found in an early summer's morning.—*Journal of a Naturalist.*

The gardens are now rich with luxuriance. The most beautiful of flowers, the rose, is abundant in all its varieties, Add to these the pink, the midsummer daisy, the Canterbury bells, the scarlet lychnis, the sweet-william, the sweet-pea, the larkspur, the candy-tuft, and the nasturtium.

The hay harvest now affords a delightful occupation for the union of both labor and pleasure. It is more tranquil than the greater hustle of harvest: the gaiety of the flowers before the grass is cut, the fresh verdure of the sward afterwards, the delicious scent of the new-made hay, and the cheerfulness which prevails in the light work, gives it an inexpressible charm. It is, however, often a season of great anxiety, when the weather is wet. Occasional storms not only retard the harvest, but often spoil the hay at this period.

The mowers gaze
Silent, and trembling, on the frowning skies;
A sudden flash the wonted signal gives,
And loud, and long, the dreadful crash is heard;
Quicker the lightnings glance—th' increasing storm
Approaches nearer:—mute the rustics stand.

C. C. Richardson.

THE LAKE.

BY N. T. CARRINGTON.

June has charmed
The winds to rest: the broad, blue waters sleep
Profound from bank to bank; or if an air
Have leave a moment wantonly to bend
The graceful lily sitting on her throne

Of moist, lush leaves, the lovely shadow waves
In tremulous repose below, and then
The lake is strangely still again. The eye
Delights to look into those glossy depths,
And glance refreshed from flower to flower, that blooms
Anew, in shadowy glory, ere the breeze
Destroys its brief, bright life. The very trees
Deliciously deceptive, fling abroad,
Aye, leaf for leaf, their greenness. E'en the bee
That buzzes round the woodbine, has his dark
But clear-seen image; and, anon, floats near
The gem and winged butterfly. The bird which skims
The tides of air, seems in the impassive flood
Again to sport; and every cloud that sails
Slowly through heaven, has motion, colour, shape,
In that clear liquid world. Laburnum showers
Profuse her golden blossoms; and the vine
Her full frank clusters, that but wait the breath
Of August to put on the glorious tint
Of amethyst, and the proud tulip shews
His gorgeous dyes—scarlet, and gold, and black—
The gayest flowers the silver waters hold;
But not so dear, ah no! not half so dear
To the fond eyes as many that unfold
Their simpler beauties there. The queen-rose reigns
Supreme as ever—in that mirror still,
As in the rich and breathing world above,
Fairest among the fair.

Literary Gazette.

ORIGIN OF THE RED ROSE.

BY C. WEBBE.

It was the sultry noontide hour,
When Bacchus revell'd in his bower.
Rare was the wine, by Tuscan hands
Express'd with care in Tuscan lands!

Wild was the dance, for cymbals beat
The clamorous time to cloven feet !
And many an Iö loudly pealing,
And mirth-shout shook the leafy cieling ;
And flushed bacchantes, headlong reeling,
Crush'd the White Roses with quick tread,
Till all the air was essenced.

“ Bring me,” quoth he, the crown'd with vine,
The ruddy god of radiant wine,—
“ Bring me yon pallid flowers, and lave
Them in this generous wave !—
Wan and virgin looks be theirs
Who unto Dian pay their prayers ;
But flowers, that woo the fiery sun,
Should take the tint by which he's won ;
And these, ere half my rite is done,
Shall wear the blush this nectar wears,
And be as beautiful to see
As Ariadne, when that she
Is fairest and most pleases me !
Bright Apollo, when his tent
Opens on the Orient,
Or when his glorious head he lays
Where Thetis wets his dusty bays,
Cannot boast so fair a flush
As these honour'd flowers shall blush.”

He ceased, (while all the sylvan rout
Hung attentive round about,)
And plunged them, laughing, in a flood
Of the red grape's luxurious blood ;
And o'er their snowy paleness spread
A tint like that which stained the breast
Of her who Collatinus wed,
When to her heart the weapon prest,
To vindicate the holy pride
For which she liv'd—for which she died.

The Red Rose since that festive hour,
Is queen of every summer-flower.

JULY.

The gliding fish that takes his play,
In shady nook of streamlet cool,
Thinks not how waters pass away,
And summer dries the pool.

The bird beneath his leafy dome
Who trills his carol, loud and clear,
Thinks not how soon his verdant home
The lightning's breath may sear.

Joanna Baillie.

THIS is usually the hottest month in the year, and the flowers which blossomed in June, now mature their seeds, and has turned to decay. A new race succeeds, which requires all the fervid rays of a solstitial sun to bring it to perfection.

The different tribes of insects, which, for the most part, are hatched in the spring, are now in full vigour; but the plenitude of their enjoyment is limited indeed, for they die at the approach of winter. Bees are still busy among the flowers, laying in their store of provision for the season.

Bees are found, in a natural state, in the forests of Russia, and in different parts of Asia, occupying cavities in trees, &c. They have many enemies, such as mice and rats, among the mammalia; the swallow, and other

insectivorous birds, among the feathered tribes; the wasps and ants among the insects. They are also subject to many diseases. The duration of the life of bees, is not known with certainty. Virgil and Pliny have given seven years as the term, and others extend it to ten; but of five hundred bees, which Rheumer marked with red varnish, in the month of April, not one was found living in November. By a succession of generations, however, hives have been preserved for twenty-five years. The honey stored up by the bees, is for their supply in winter, or unfavorable weather; and this is more or less exhausted as the winter is mild and open, or the reverse. In severe cold, the inhabitants of the hive remain in a state of torpor.

Wax, so valuable for many minor purposes, and deemed, with us, so indispensable to the comfort of the great, is of still more importance in those parts of Europe and America, in which it forms a considerable branch of trade and manufacture, as an article of extensive use in the religious ceremonies of the inhabitants. Humboldt informs us, that not fewer than 25,000 arrobas, the value of which is upwards £83,000, are annually imported from Cuba to New Spain, where the quantities used in the festivals of the church is immense, even in the smallest villages; and that the total export of the same island, in 1803, was not less than 42,670 arrobas, worth upwards of £130,000. Honey, the other well known product of these insects, has lost much of its importance since the discovery of sugar; but, in many inland parts of Europe, where its saccharine substitute is much dearer than with us, few articles of rural economy, not of primary importance,

would be dispensed with more reluctantly. In the Ukraine, some of the peasants have from four to five hundred bee-hives, and make more profit of their bees than their corn. In Spain, the number of bee-hives is said to be incredible; a single parish priest has been known to possess five thousand.—*Young Lady's Book.*

The barbarous and cruel system of smothering bees may now be totally dispensed with, by a plan recently adopted with complete success; it is called "driving," and is easily accomplished: thus—At dusk, place a metal pot where the old hive stands; have a new hive prepared, with cross sticks, and cream and sugar smeared inside; invert the old hive into the pot, and quickly place the new one over it; tie a cloth round the meeting of both hives, so as to prevent any of the bees escaping; then keep striking the bottom of the metal pot with an iron instrument, and in less than ten minutes all the bees will be driven by the sound from the old to the new hive; then untie the cloth and lift the new hive to the place where the old one stood, at the same time quickly covering the honey hive with a white cloth to prevent any of the bees returning to it. In the morning, lift a corner of the cloth so as to make a small aperture to let out any of the bees that should remain, and by striking the pot as before, they will instantly depart, and join their companions in the new settlement. It may be necessary to feed the bees well for a few days with sugar, and they will proceed to work immediately after.

Summer fishing is now in perfection, and among those commonly in season are trout, perch, roach, dace, chub, bleak, gudgeon, miller's thumb, stickleback, carp, and tench. The angler may not be displeased at hearing

what Sir Humphery Davy says in defence of that sport:—

“ The search after food is an instinct belonging to our nature ; and from the savage in his rudest and most primitive state, who destroys a piece of game, or a fish, with a club or spear, to man in the most cultivated state of society, who employs artifice, machinery, and the resources of various other animals, to secure his object, the origin of the pleasure is similar, and its object the same : but that kind of it requiring the most art may be said to characterize man in his highest or intellectual state ; and the fisher for salmon and trout with the fly, employs not only machinery to assist his physical powers, but, applies sagacity to conquer difficulties ; and the pleasure derived from ingenious resources and devices, as well as from active pursuit, belongs to this amusement. Then as to its philosophical tendency, it is a pursuit of moral discipline, requiring patience, forbearance, and command of temper. As connected with natural science, it may be vaunted as demanding a knowledge of the habits of a considerable tribe of created beings—fishes, and the animals they prey upon, and an acquaintance with the signs and tokens of the weather and its changes, the nature of waters, and of the atmosphere. As to its poetical relations, it carries us into the most wild and beautiful scenery of nature : amongst the mountain lakes, and the clear and lovely streams that gush from the higher ranges of elevated hills, or that make their way through the cavities of calcareous strata. How delightful in the early spring, after the dull and tedious time of winter, when the frosts disappear and the sunshine warms the earth and waters, to wander forth by

some clear stream, to see the leaf bursting from the purple bud, to scent the odours of the bank perfumed by the violet, and enamelled, as it were, with the primrose and the daisy; to wander upon the fresh turf below the shade of trees, whose bright blossoms are filled with the music of the bee; and on the surface of the waters to view the gaudy flies sparkling like animated gems in the sunbeams, whilst the bright and beautiful trout is watching them from below; to hear the twittering of the water-birds, who, alarmed at your approach, rapidly hide themselves beneath the flowers and leaves of the water lily; and as the season advances, to find all these objects changed for others of the same kind, but better and brighter, till the swallow and the trout contend as it were for the gaudy May-fly, and till in pursuing your amusement in the calm and balmy evening, you are serenaded by the songs of the cheerful thrush and melodious nightingale, performing the offices of paternal love, in thickets ornamented with the rose and woodbine.—*Salmonia.*

THE LEGACY OF THE ROSES*.

BY L. E. L.

Oh! plant them above me, the soft, the bright,
The touched with the sunset's crimson light,
The warm with the earliest breath of Spring,
The sweet with the sweep of the west wind's wing;
Let the green bough and the red leaf wave—
Plant the glad rose-tree upon my grave.

* Mr. Crofton Croker says: "that a person, who died at Barnes, left an annual sum to be laid out in roses planted on his grave. This circumstance gave the idea of these beautiful lines.

Why should the mournful willow weep
O'er the quiet rest of a dreamless sleep?—
Weep for life, with its toil and care,
Its crime to shun, and its sorrow to bear;
Let tears, and the sign of tears, be shed
Over the living, not over the dead!

Plant not the cypress nor yet the yew;
Too heavy their shadow, too gloomy their hue,
For one who is sleeping in faith and in love,
With a hope that is treasured in heaven above;
In a holy trust are my ashes laid—
Cast ye no darkness, throw ye no shade.

Plant the green sod with the crimson rose,
Let my friends rejoice o'er my calm repose;
Let my memory be like the odours they shed,
My hope like their promise of early red;
Let strangers, too, share in their breath and their bloom—
Plant ye the bright roses over my tomb!



AUGUST.

The grove still blooms, the sky looks bright,
Yon river still runs clear and free ;
Still spreads in pride yon corn-clad height
And the green vales are fair to see :
While music bursts from every tree.
Sweet spot ! thy charms unchang'd remain,
And hedge, and cliff, and stream, and plain,
As yet look lovely to the sight.

Furlong.

THIS is usually the finest and most settled month of the year. In fine dry summers the sky is often strikingly beautiful at this time, particularly with light easterly breezes. The clouds then exhibit every conceivable variety of whimsical figures, and are richly colored with the most natural tints by the setting sun. By moonlight, too, the appearance of the summer clouds at this time of year is excessively elegant. Beds of mottled or fleecy sunderclouds, floating gently along, in different attitudes, must have attracted almost every body's notice. The beautiful appearance of these clouds, on a moonlight evening, has been thus well described :—

For yet above these wafted clouds are seen,
In a remoter sky still more serene,
Others detached in ranges through the air,
Spotless as snow, and countless as they're fair,

Scatter'd immensely wide, from east to west,
The beauteous semblance of a flock at rest,
Which to the watchful virgin oft proclaim
The mighty Shepherd's everlasting name.

Bloomfield.

Numerous tribes of insects swarm this month, and sport in the sun from flower to flower. It is very amusing to observe, in the bright sun of an August morning, the animation and delight of some of the lepidopterous insects. That beautiful little blue butterfly *papilio argus* is then all life and activity, flitting about the flowers in the grass with remarkable vivacity; there seems to be a constant rivalry and contention between this beauty and the not less elegant little bean *papilio phlaeus*. Frequenting the same station, attached to the same head of clover or of harebell, whenever they approach, mutual animosity seems to possess them; and darting from the field, when the conqueror returns to his post; and this contention is renewed as long as the brilliancy of the sun animates their courage. In the calm evening

The Bat begins with giddy wing
His circuit round the shed and tree;
And clouds of dancing Gnats to sing
A summer night's serenity.

House flies swarm; gnats become troublesome; and insects generally seem animated by the season. Trifling as they may appear there is no part of the economy of nature more curious than insects. No beast of prey ever more patiently or more successfully practised systematic stratagem for taking his victims at unawares, than several sorts of insects employ to elude their enemies, by counterfeiting death. This is a very common device among spiders, moths, and various sorts

of beetles, and is varied according to the form and habits of the species. Moths, (usually the small *tineæ* and *tortrices*,) when they think themselves in danger, draw their antennæ, as well as their wings, close to their body, and in this state they may be tossed about without manifesting the smallest sign of life or motion. We do not recollect of having seen this remarked of moths in any of the works on entomology ; but the same circumstance is recorded by every writer on the subject, with respect to beetles. The small gray beetle (*anobium pertinax*,) so well known for making pin-holes in old furniture, is one of the most common instances, and is, or may be, familiar to every person who chooses to observe its singular habits, as it is to be found in almost every house. The little beetle has received, from naturalists, the title of *pertinax* from its pertinacity in counterfeiting death. De Geer, the celebrated Swedish entomologist, informs us, that it equals, if it does not exceed, the heroic firmness of the American savages in bearing torture ; for, he says, you may maim them, pull them limb from limb, and even roast them over a slow fire, without making them move a joint, or exhibit the slightest symptom of suffering pain. Spiders, also, may be similarly tortured and maimed, as Smellie has remarked, when they assume the attitude of counterfeit death. It is very common, also, with the little beetles, called *byrrhi* by entomologists, to draw in their feet and their antennæ, so as to give themselves the appearance of a pill, from which, indeed, they take the name, of pill-beetles. It is remarked, in Kirby and Spence's Introduction, that the common dung chafer, (*scarabæus stercorarius*) the black purplish shining beetle, which abounds on every road, deceives

its enemies, the rooks, by setting out its legs as stiffly as if they were made of iron wire, and remaining perfectly motionless, and as the rooks will only eat them when alive, this stratagem is an effectual protection. . Some of our physiological readers might be apt to suppose that this simulation of death so successfully made and persisted in, might be the consequence of a strong convulsion caused by fear, but it is fatal to this explanation, that the insect, which is practising what appears to us to be an instinctive device, makes off with all speed the instant the object of alarm is removed ; whereas, if it were a convulsive attitude, the animal could not resume its movements at pleasure.

Towards the end of the month, when summer is declining, every thing begins to wear an autumnal appearance: the heat of summer is usually diminished, or in wet seasons the æstival rains are gradually subsiding. Elms, limes, and some other early trees, begin to cast a few yellow leaves ; and those of the weeping-willow are scattered daily on the smooth surface of the pond which it may overhang. The early summer fruits are gone, or for the most part so ; and the later sorts succeed them, among which are plums, peaches, nectarines, and apricots.

MORNING MEDITATIONS.

BY THOMAS FURLONG.

'Tis sweet as the day begins to dawn,
When the lark her song is singing,
To wander at will through the grassy lawn
Where fresh flowers around are springing.

'Tis sweet at that solemn hour to go
O'er the rocky slope, all alone,
Where the scattering streamlets freely flow,
Through channels but newly known.
'Tis well to inhale the early gale,
As it sweeps the green hill's side ;
Or to trace the depths of the glen below,
'Tis pleasant upon the path to tread,
That leads far over the mountain's head ;
Or to look on the wood in its leafy pride,
In the glen or the grove, the dawn is fair,—
Morning is beautiful every where !

The eye of the poet still loves to view
The earth in the light of morn ;
When each object comes in its happiest hue,
When all looks pure, and unstain'd, and new,
Like innocence lately born.
Ere the air's first freshness is worn away ;
Or the small birds ended their earliest lay :
Ere the sultry sun, in the glare of his pride
Hath dash'd all the dewy drops aside,
That like gems bespangle the thorn.
Ere man moves forth with his thoughts of care,
With his wearied step, and his selfish air,
And his ominous looks to cloud the scene,
Where brightness and beauty alone have been.

The morning is lovely ! yet here I lie,
Unnerv'd in the cheering light :
With a throbbing brow, and a dull dim eye,
Dwelling, with many a long drawn sigh,
On the foolish freaks of the night.
On the mispent moments for ever past,
And the idle sayings that fell too fast.
—'Tis o'er—this hour shall change my plan,
Let me do better to-day—if I can.

S E P T E M B E R.

The bright sun threw his glory all around,
And then the balmy, mild, autumnal breeze
Swept with a musical and fitful sound
Among the fading foliage of the trees ;
And, now and then, a playful gust would seize
Some falling leaf, and, like a living thing,
Which flits about wherever it may please,
It floated round in many an airy ring,
Till on the dewy grass it lost its transient wing.

Bernard Barton.

THIS is the last month of summer, and the first of autumn ; and is usually one of the most charming of the year. The harvest, which commenced last month, is now completed, and the industry of man is rewarded with the blessing of heaven. There can be no sight on earth more delightful than the view of an open corn country, when the compact sheaves stand ready for their removal to the farmer's stores ; when the loaded waggon moves slowly through the stubble to receive the abundance which lies around it ; when the busy gleaners follow its scattering course, to collect the little portion which the custom of the primitive ages has bequeathed to their humble wants.

As the summer birds of passage are now departed or departing, our winter visitants are beginning to flock

from the north. A very singular peculiarity in these migrations was first discovered by Linnæus, in the chaffinches of Sweden, the males migrating while the females remain stationary. It has been said that this occurs partially in Britain, with respect to the same bird. In the case of other migratory birds, it is remarkable that the males generally arrive first, preceding the females by several days, a circumstance which the bird-catchers know how to take advantage of.

The wheatear (*sylvia ænanthe*) frequents annually our open commons and stone quarries, and breeds there. I have seen it with nestling materials in its bill, and have had its eggs, though rarely, brought home. This bird visits England early in the spring, and continues with us till nearly the end of September, that is, during the entire breeding season. Yet it is remarkable, notwithstanding its numbers, and the little concealment which its haunt affords, how rarely its nests are found. Its principal place of resort is the South Downs, in Sussex; and it appears, from the accounts of the most experienced and credible persons of that county, from whom I have my information, that the females are performing their duties of incubation during the month of March; as at that time scarcely any but male birds are visible, of which hundreds are then flying about; while the females with their families appear early in May, and are captured in great numbers: yet the oldest shepherds have seldom seen their nest! But in fact no bird conceals its nest with more artifice than the wheatear; and in consequence of this circumstance, and the retired places in which it fixes its summer residence, very many of the young ones are produced. This summer (June 15,

1828) I appointed a boy to watch two hen birds to their retreat, and after some hours of vigilance he succeeded, and gave me notice; one had made her nest deep in the crevice of a stone quarry, so carefully hidden by projecting fragments, as not to be observed from without until part of the rock was removed: her fabric was large and rudely constructed with dried bents, scraps of shreds, feathers, and rubbish, collected about the huts on the down, and contained four pale blue eggs, about the size of those of the sky-lark. The other bird had descended through the interstices of some rather loose stones, as a mouse would have done, and then proceeded laterally to a hollow space in a bank, against which the stones were laid; and so deep had she penetrated, that many of the stones had to be removed before we could discover her treasure: as no appearances had led to any suspicion of a nest, it would never have been detected but for our watchfulness. With us, the wheatear stays only to hatch her brood. When this is effected, and the young sufficiently matured, it leaves us entirely, and by the middle of September, not a bird is found on their summer stations. They probably retire to the uplands on the sea-coasts, as we hear of them as late as November in these places, where it is supposed they find some peculiar insect food, required by them in an adult shape, and not found, or only sparingly, in their breeding stations, in which the appropriate food of their young is probably more abundant. Thus united, on the coasts, they can take their flight when the wind or other circumstances favour their passage—all of them departing upon the approach of winter.—*Journal of a Naturalist.*

This month shooting commences, and partridges are

in great abundance.—The sagacity and affection of these birds for their young, has been, not more frequently than correctly, described. If a dog approach the hen, under whose wing the covey are concealed, the cock utters a peculiar note of alarm, and throws himself in the way of danger ; he droops his wings, appears jaded, distressed, and scarcely able to keep above a pace or two from the nose of the enemy, running, rather than flying, before him ; while the hen either remains close, or retires with her brood to a place of safety,—*Young Lady's Book*.

AUTUMN.

BY THE AUTHOR OF "PELHAM," "PAUL CLIFFORD," &c.

Day had arisen in the Autumn heaven,
Clearly and coldly bright—the yellow leaves
Strewed the sear earth, or fitfully were driven
Before the wild path of the scattering air :
The swallow from the hospitable eaves
Flew forth exulting on his rapid way,
And through the sadness of the waning year
Sung out like hope ; but even as gathering care,
Stern Winter comes to mar that matin lay.
Amid the grove the laurel's lonely tree,
Hallowed by old tradition, still is seen
Dight in the lustre of its deathless green.—
A smile on Nature's cheek—meet type, I ween,
Of that high fame which glows immortally
Through time which changes, and through storms which
sear,
Brightening through gloom, and fresh'ning o'er decay.

OCTOBER.

A thunder-storm ! the eloquence of heaven,
When every cloud is from its slumber driven,—
Who hath not paused beneath its hollow groan,
And felt an Omnipresence round him thrown ?
With what a gloom the ush'ring scene appears —
The leaves all shiv'ring with expectant fears,
The waters curling with a fellow dread,
A veiling fervour round creation spread,
And, last, the heavy rains, reluctant shower,
With big drops patt'ring on the tree and bower,
While wizard shapes the bowing sky deform,—
All mark the coming of the thunder-storm !

R. Montgomery.

THE advancing season now renders the leaves of most trees of deeper yellow, while the red or russet colour of others, and the green colour of a few which remain verdant till late, together with the dark and green foliage of various evergreens, renders the landscape still very interesting and picturesque. The soft tints, too, of brown, and purple, and green, which the heaths and forest lands exhibit of an afternoon under the still refulgent skies of autumn, are at this time often remarkably beautiful, and so continue during that period of fine still weather, which often continues till after the middle of the month, and is called in Devonshire St. Luke's Little

Summer. The setting in, or continuance, however, of this fine weather is uncertain. It is often preceded, as well as followed, by cool but westerly gales and intervals of showers.

The woods are roaring in the gale
That whirls their faded leaves afar:
The crescent moon is cold and pale,
And swiftly sinks the evening star:
High on the mossy bank reclined,
I listen to the eddying wind.

Peacock.

But few flowers are to be seen this month; the greenhouse, however, is in perfection, and many of the late fruits are in season. Grapes are now quite ripe in England, France, Flanders, and other countries having the same isothermal line. In Italy, Portugal, Spain, and the south of France and Germany, they are ripe nearly a month sooner. Virgil compared the sorts of grapes in number to the sands on the sea shore.

The botanic garden of Geneva possesses a collection of more than 600 varieties of vines, collected from different vineyards in France, Switzerland, and Italy. In the month of November, 1827, a selection of the best varieties was sent to Mr. L. Alaman, one of the principal proprietors in the Mexican United States. He planted them on his lands in the state of Guanaxuato, and writes that a hundred and five stocks are in full vegetation. He adds, that, on the elevated plain of Mexico, the same inconvenience is not experienced in the cultivation of the vine which arrests its cultivation at Cayenne, and in several parts of the United States; namely—that the grapes of the same cluster ripen unequally. At Mexico, they ripen together as in Europe, and it is to be pre-

sumed, that this cultivation, which was formerly prohibited by the Spanish Government, might be established there, the climate resembling that of Murcia or Rome. If these hopes are realized, it will be curious that the Botanic Garden of Geneva should have been the means of furnishing these plants to South America. It will be recollected that it was the Paris garden that supplied Martinique with the coffee plants, from which originated all the coffee plantations in America; and that, in our own days, it has sent the bread fruit tree to Cayenne, where it is now extensively cultivated. Facts like these, evidently demonstrate the practical utility of these establishments, which are commonly looked upon as exclusively subserviant to theoretical studies.

During this month the common martin disappears; and, shortly afterwards, the smallest kind of swallow, the sand martin, migrates. The roystor, or hooded crow, arrives from Scotland and the northern part of England, being driven thence by the severity of the season. The woodcock returns and feeds on our eastern coasts. Various kinds of waterfowl make their appearance; and about the middle of the month, wild geese leave the fens, and go to the rye lands, to devour the young corn.

Of the swallow, Sir Humphery Davy says:—"The swallow is one of my favorite birds, and a rival of the nightingale; for he glads my sense of seeing, as much as the other does my sense of hearing. He is the joyous prophet of the year, the harbinger of the best season: he lives a life of enjoyment, amongst the loveliest forms of nature: winter is unknown to him; and he leaves the green meadows of England in autumn, for the myrtle and orange groves of Italy, and for the palms of Africa; he

has always objects of pursuit, and his success is secure. Even the beings selected for his prey are poetical, beautiful and transient. The ephemera are saved by his means from a slow and lingering death in the evening, and killed in a moment, when they have known nothing of life but pleasure. He is the constant destroyer of insects,—the friend of man ; and with the stork and the ibis, may be regarded as a sacred bird. His instinct, which gives him his appointed seasons, and which teaches him always when and where to move, may be regarded as flowing from a divine source ; and he belongs to the oracles of nature, which speak the awful and intelligible language of a present Deity.”

The following, as connected with this month, is interesting :—Dr Gerard, an eminent French naturalist and physician, visited the valley of Sulej, in 1829, and made some curious observations at that place, which is the highest inhabited spot on the globe. The principal object of his journey was the introduction of vaccination into Thibet ; but it appears that the prejudices of the rajah prevented him from succeeding in that humane enterprise. One of the villages where he stopt was proved to be 14,700 feet above the level of the sea. At this place, in the month of October, the thermometer in the morning marked 8° 83' centigrades below zero ; and during the day, the rays of the sun were so hot as to be inconvenient, and yet the waters in the lakes and rivers were frozen during the night, but were free from ice at two o'clock in the afternoon. By means of artificial irrigation, and the action of solar heat, large quantities of rye were raised at this immense height, some of the fields being at 14,900 feet. Dr. Gerard gives his

opinion, that cultivation might be carried as high as from 16 to 17,000 feet. The goats bred in this region are the finest in the country, and are of that species the wool of which is used for the manufacture of shawls. At a height of 15,000 feet, quantities of fossil shells are found on calcareous rocks, upon strata of granite and pulverised schist: they consist of muscle, and others of various forms and dimensions. To the north of the frontier of Konnaowr, Dr. Gerard attained a height of 20,000 feet, without crossing the perpetual snow. At one o'clock in the afternoon, the thermometer was at 2° 78 centigrades below zero. Notwithstanding this extreme elevation, the action of the sun had an unpleasant effect, though in the shade the air was freezing.

AUTUMN STANZAS.

BY J. A. SHEA.

In the balmy hush of evening,
Along the silent shore,
When the red setting sun has ting'd
The ocean's surface o'er;
How soothing to the weary heart
To wander and behold
Those waters chain'd in slumber,
That heaven array'd in gold.

Or to gaze from high mountain top
Upon the vallies down,
When Autumn's bronzing touch has turn'd
The forest's beauty brown—
When seldom in the solitude,
Some lingering flow'r appears,
Like the few fading joys that deck
The Autumn of our years.

D d

And when the shrieking billows
Reflect the lightning's light,
'Tis good to mark their Alpine strength
Pursue its foaming flight;
And hear from black and bursting clouds
The living thunder's roll,
That voice of God—that sign of awe,
That teacher of the soul.

And in that thunder's warning,
And in that lightning's light,
To see his flash of anger,
And hear his voice of might—
Bend down before his fiery wrath,
Amid that fearful strife,
And, trembling in our silent hearts,
Acknowledge—this is life !

And now, as we are entering upon the gloomy months of November and December, when the Naturalist will not have so much to attract him abroad, we may perhaps be permitted to introduce a few books to his notice, the perusal of which will agreeably occupy many leisure hours at home.—*The Journal of a Naturalist* is one of the most instructive and pleasing works of the kind that has appeared since White's Natural History of Selborne, to which it bears a close affinity. *The British Naturalist* will be found a most valuable compendium of the Natural History of British Birds, combined with much other useful information, conveyed in a pleasing and agreeable style. As a present to a lady, we most cordially recommend *The Young Lady's Book*, decidedly the most splendid specimen of typographical elegance ever issued from the press. More than half the volume is devoted to subjects of interest to the Naturalist, and illustrated with many hundred engravings of birds, plants, insects, &c. The articles on singing birds, angling, &c. in *The Boy's Own Book*, are also well designed for alluring the youthful mind to a contemplation of Nature.

N O V E M B E R.



Is the reader sure that the month of November has not been the subject of a great deal of undeserved calumny? For myself, I have long believed that it ought to be rescued from the unfounded charges made against it by Grub-street scribblers, and would intreat those in the country, to whom the state of the weather is an object of interest, to mark well the course of two or three successive Novembers, should such fall to their share, and see if this slandered portion of the year have not beauties of its own amply sufficient to redeem it from the disgrace into which it seems to have fallen.

Let me grant, however, freely, that to the citizen of London, it is all, and more than all, that has been said of it. Who that has ever marked that impenetrable fog—taken in the laden, uncomfortable air—trodden the slippery greasy foot-ways—seen the sun coated over with (what shall I call it in order to avoid profaning the poetical, Ossianic, hill and valley-sounding name of *mist*,) something like a wet and dirty sail cloth,—but must acknowledge that a London November is a dismal thing! But it is far otherwise in the country. Go to the city at noon-day—and if you have the good fortune to grope your way by lamp-light into a Croydon stage coach, try, reader, I beseech you, try what a November morning is, when

London is left behind, and you have reached some breezy upland, or fine open down, where you meet the tempered wind of autumn bringing with it the perfume of the dying leaves; where you see the short, moist grass, sparkling in the sun; the distant mist never, perhaps, wholly withdrawing its curtain—but now lifting up, now letting down, a fold over part of the scene, every moment thus changing the outline of the prospect. The thinned foliage admitting at each remove of the veil, a more extended boundary line of landscape; the distinct forms of the nearer trees, and the remarkable transparency of every little brook that murmurs along, adding peculiar beauties to the scene.

I suppose it may be in illustration of the mind's propensity to value that which is about to elude its grasp, that a fine day at this time of year is so peculiarly enjoyed. Small as is the gratitude commonly excited by seasons of beauty, I have always fancied there is a nearer approach to remembrance of the privilege and blessing of their enjoyment in the closing days of autumn, than at any other period.

“ The gently sighing breezes, as they blow,
Have more than vernal softness; and the sun
Sheds on the landscape round a mellowing glow,
Than in his summer splendour he has done,
As if he near'd the goal and knew the race was won.”

Every body is seized with a desire to redeem time in November. Neighbours exchange visits—old people and invalids get out into the sun while they can; fairs are held—fuel is bought in; the shops are frequented—the rent is paid: the people, though poor, have the feeling of being out of debt, and, on the strength of this, allow

themselves, perhaps, some little piece of extravagance. If the sun comes out, every one is abroad. It is true there is no walking in the meadows, and the country lanes are seldom in good order for delicate-footed pedestrians; but they who retain a moderate portion of the spirit of enterprise—they whom false refinement has not rendered more afraid of a soiled slipper than a pallid countenance, can generally find some not intolerable path-ways. If you are in a corn country, you are sure to see the villagers scattered about in the ploughed fields, preparing the ground for the future corn; groups of rosy children in the most picturesque costume imaginable—old hats, old frocks, old petticoats—every thing the household can furnish that is most antiquated and party-colored, is carefully saved for the Autumnal field-work. Bright reds and yellows, blues and greens, mixed up in rich variety, with little odd-shaped jackets—or a father's old coat made up into a sort of non-descript garment for a young one. Take into the account a great inclination to fun and irregularity of movement among the children, frequently corrected by some business-like matron, whose task it is to superintend the work of the young company of depositors, and you will form some idea of this lively amusing scene. The ploughers and harrowers, meanwhile, plod on their way, in perhaps a distant part of the field, adding to the stirring and picturesque character of the spectacle.

The day, too, is free from the disappointments one meets with in other months—the cutting salutations of a blast in June, when we go out in summer clothing, under the expectation of a soft, southern breeze,—the precocious warmth of a February morning, which fills us

with melancholy anticipations of the probable fate of early blossoms,—all this is over; it is the time of sober certainty: one more day of enjoyment for birds and butterflies, for the chrysanthemum to blossom, and the bee to gather up a little fresh food before he sets to work on his winter stores. And why should not WE, too, spare our provision for the time of out-door poverty? why not take our lesson from the bee, and expatiate amid flowers and leaves, air and sunshine, leaving to December our fires and our curtained rooms.—EMILY TAYLOR—*Winter's Wreath*, 1831.

AUTUMNAL STANZAS.

BY M. L. B.

Hark! that far fitful shriek, long-drawn, and drear!
Is it of spirits lost, the harrowing yell?
Or, a wild requiem for the dying year
Sung by the winds, frantic, and terrible;
It is their gusty voice, and they sweep by
With forceful speed,—and vengeful energy!

They pass! and on their desolating wing
From leafy woods, a wither'd, rustling shower,
And sudden rain-drops from the welkin bring,—
The grey-white welkin looming o'er their power!
Nature roars round me, but, abroad to be,
In this tremendous strife, is ecstasy!

'Tis the poetic visionary hour
When *Mind* and *Feeling* reign; when earth appears
Nought,—or is not;—when, in supernal power
The soul, for unimaginable years
Seems fram'd;—and pass'd the dread lugubrious bar
Which stays her, from the unseen things, that *are*!

Yet, on this light of soul, intrudes a gloom,—
A dreariness,—vague, and inscrutable ;
So, on the Tree of Life's transparent bloom
The Tree of Death's envenom'd shadow fell :
They come ! they come ! fantastic shapes of ill,—
Phantoms,—whose wish'd dispersion mocks the will !

Yet, wildly loves my ravish'd breast this hour
Of gloom and brightness, mingling mournfully :
Oh ! rushing winds, wail on ! Descend sear shower !
Weep, sobbing skies ! you're all divine to me ;
And your mysterious twine of weal and woe,
Methinks th' *embodied* soul *alone* can know !

Heaven ne'er changes ;—*Angels* never weep ;—
But when divinely breathing *Music* sighs
Through the illimitable region,—deep,
But silently, glow countless hierarchies,
Bright'ning as Feeling wakes ; *they* cannot know
E'en the *ideal* deliciousness of woe !

That still luxurious witchery, which now
Concentrates ev'ry mental power, as I
Hear, to the storm the groaning woodlands bow,
And swelling floods with sullen roar reply :
Delicious,—saddest concert !—O with thee
Comes the high pensive mood of poesy !

Enough : my wayward, wand'ring song, here rest ;
What lyre's presumption shall essay to tell
Of feelings that pervade the *Poet's* breast,—
Vivid,—intense,—vast,—and unutt'able ?—
What daring pencil paint the scenes that roll
In thought majestic o'er his heav'n-lit soul !

D E C E M B E R.

Heap on more wood, the wind is chill;
But let it whistle as it will,
We'll keep our merry Christmas still.

Sir Walter Scott.

THE year is dying away like the sound of bells. The wind passes over the stubble, and finds nothing to move. Only the red berries of that slender tree seem as if they would fain remind us of something cheerful: and the measured beat of the thresher's flail calls up the thought that in the dry and fallen ear lies so much nourishment and life.—*Goethe.*

The natural features of December partake generally in the character of the last and following month. Cold and bleak winds and rain, with occasional frosts and gloomy weather, usually characterise the close of the year. The last winter, as we have before observed, was one of great severity; connected with which, and as a curious paper of reference, we copy from the *Literary Gazette* the following list of the most hard winters that have occurred since the year 1774, the period at which the meteorological register (from which this account is extracted) commences:

Year.	Began.	Duration.		Lowest of Thermometer.	
		weeks	days		
1783 - 4	October 8	12	6	13°	December 30
1784 - 5	October 1	13	5	6	December 10
1785 - 6	September 17	15	2	9	March 5
1788 - 9	October 19	9	2	8.5	December 31
1794 - 5	November 9	12	5	1'	January 25
1813-14	October 18	15	6	11	January 17
1829-30	October 7	13	6	2	February 6

The days of commencement above named are not the days on which the several frosts set in, neither is the period of duration named in the next column the result of one continued frost, but of the different frosts for the winter, taken collectively; and, for the satisfaction of those who may wish to know the several periods, the following account is given:—

In 1783-4, the frosts were as follows:—Oct. 8, 15; Nov. 12 to 14, 23; Dec. 12 to 15, 18 to 31; Jan. 5 to 13, 16 to Feb. 20; March 1, 2; 10 to 16; 19, 20; 25 to April 1, 9 to 11. Total number of days, 90.

In 1784-5, Oct. 1, 25; Nov. 5, 6, 19 to 21, 30 to Dec. 2, 7 to Jan. 4, 6 to 8, 10, 13, 29 to March 14, 22, 23; April 1 to 3. Total number of days, 96.

In 1785-6, Sept. 17; Oct. 25 to 30; Nov. 8 to 10, 13 to Dec. 5, 8, 11, 12, 14, 15, 18 to Jan. 6, 14 to 20; Feb. 2 to 4, 7 to 9, 13 to 16, 22 to March 18, 27 to 31; April 9 to 11. Total number of days, 107.

In 1788 9, Oct 19, 20; Nov 6, 16, 17, 23 to 29; Dec. 1 to 6,

8, 9, 11 to 20, 22, 23, 26 to 31; Jan. 1 to 13, 20; Feb. 8, 10, 12, 20; March 6 to 13, 16, 24, 26, 27. Total number of days, 65.

In 1794-5, Nov. 9, 10, 18 to 20, 27; Dec. 10 to 12, 16 to Jan. 26, 28 to Feb. 7, 13 to 22, 27 to March 3, 8 to 19, 21 to 23, 26; May 27, 28. Total number of days, 89.

In 1813-14, Oct. 18 to 20, 29, 30; Nov. 1, 4 to 6, 13, 14, 17, 18, 28 to 30; Dec. 1, 2, 12 to 15, 21, 27; Feb. 5, 14 to March 19, 23, 24, 27, 31; April 4, 5, 9 to 12, 27; May 11, 12. Total number of days, 111.

In 1829-30, Oct. 7 to 10, 16, 24, 25, 27; Nov. 1 to 3, 8, 16 to 22, 25 to 27; Dec. 7, 9 to 12, 14 to Jan. 4, 6 to Feb. 4, 10 to 23. Total number of days, 97.

EDMONTON.

Charles H. Adams.

There are so many causes that have a tendency to produce alterations in the state of the atmosphere, and, of consequence, change of weather—particularly in an insular situation, as these kingdoms are—that it is not probable any mode will ever be discovered to foretell, to a certainty, what weather will absolutely succeed any precise period. But, as it must be of the utmost service to the traveller, farmer, gardener, and numerous other persons, to be enabled to form a judgment of what weather will most probably prevail at any fixed time, the following table, constructed upon a philosophical consideration of the attraction of the sun and moon in their several positions respecting the earth, and confirmed by the experience of many years' actual observations, will, without trouble, furnish the observer with the knowledge of what kind of weather there is the greatest probability of succeeding, and that so near the truth, that in very few instances will it be known to fail.

NEW OR FULL MOON.	SUMMER.	WINTER.
<p>If it be new or full moon, or the moon enters into the first or last quarter at the hour of 12 at noon.....</p>	<p>Very rainy.</p>	<p>Snow or rain.</p>
<p>Or between the hours of</p> <p>2 and 4 4 6 6 8 8 10 10 midnight Midnight 2 2 4 4 6 6 8 8 10 10 12</p>	<p>Changeable. Fair. { Fair, if wind at N.W.; rainy, if S. or S.W. Ditto. Fair. Fair. Cold, with frequent showers. Rain. Wind and rain. Changeable. Frequent showers.</p>	<p>Fair and mild. Fair. { Fair and frosty, if N. or N.E.; rain or snow, if S. or S.W. Ditto. Fair and frosty. Hard frost, unless wind at S. or W. Snow and stormy. Cold rain or snow. Stormy weather. Cold rain, if W.; snow, if E. Cold, with high wind.</p>

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